

Winter 2015

Macalester Today Winter 2015

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Macalester Today

WINTER 2015



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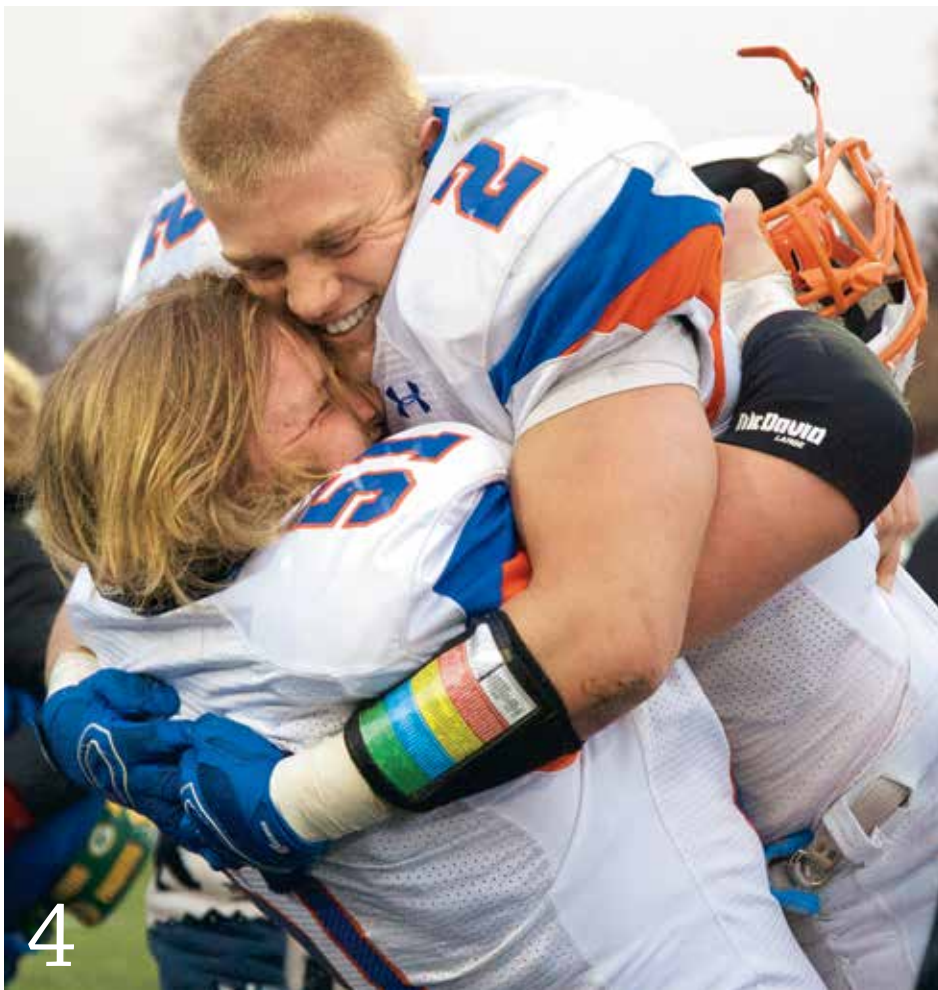
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(Photo by David J. Turner)





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Staff

EDITOR

Lynette Lamb
llamb@macalester.edu

ART DIRECTOR

Brian Donahue

CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Robert Kerr '92

PHOTOGRAPHER

David J. Turner

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Rebecca DeJarlais Ortiz '06
Jan Shaw-Flamm '76

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

David Warch

MACALESTER COLLEGE



CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Gabrielle Lawrence '73

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FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, please write:

Alumni Relations Office, Macalester College,
1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105-1899. Or
call (651) 696-6295. Toll-free: 1-888-242-9351.
Email: alumnioffice@macalester.edu

TO SUBMIT COMMENTS OR IDEAS,

Phone: 651-696-6452. Fax: 651-696-6192.
Email: mactoday@macalester.edu
Web: macalester.edu/alumni



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Mystery man revealed

As an amateur genealogist, I could not let the identity of John Ned Mason, owner of the Macalester-stickered valise ("Archival Object," Fall 2014) remain a complete mystery. I discovered that he was born on June 24, 1924, in Lake of the Woods County, Minn., to John H. and Katherine Marvan Mason. He died March 5, 1993, in Ramsey County, Minn., and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Mahtomedi, Minn. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army



during WWII [which is probably why he only attended Macalester for one semester in the fall of 1942]. He was the youngest of three children and was married to Kathleen "Kit" Muriel Korlin on May 27, 1950, in St. Paul. They lived in North St. Paul and had no children.

Christine Ostrom Stannard '61
Greeley, Colo..

River story, continued

I very much enjoyed the Fall 2014 issue. The river holds wonderful memories for me: I met my wife (**Barbara Olds '56**) along Mississippi River Drive in the fall of 1953. I had been walking with my roommate, **Konrad Kaltenbach '57**, and we got tired so we stuck out our thumbs, and she picked us up. Evolution was indeed taught by Dr. Walter in the 1920s—my mother-in-law, **Margie Olds '30**, told us so. And as for the tunnels ("Rumor has it," Fall 2014), as an engineer for WBOM (then located in the attic of Weyerhaeuser) I spent time in the tunnels maintaining the closed-circuit wire feeds to the dormitories and knew how to get into Kirk, Wallace and Bigelow (where Barbara lived).

Karl F. Anuta '57
Boulder, Colo.



PHOTO: NICOLE HOUFF '98

Mac myths

Your "Rumor Has It" article brought back many fond memories for me. Although I was disappointed to learn that our benefactor, DeWitt Wallace, did not lead a cow to the top of Old Main, I was glad to hear that a cow did take a trip up its steps on Halloween night 1923. This is because several friends of mine and I hatched a plan in 1980 to reenact what we then believed to be DeWitt's grand prank. Obtaining a live cow in St. Paul turned out to be somewhat challenging, but a friend claimed to have lined up a goat that we could pick up in South St. Paul. A fellow member of the Class of '83 and I drove out in his utility van to pick up said goat, but we would-be pranksters were pranked ourselves, because no such animal was to be found. The article's depiction of the tunnels as being dark, damp, cave-like places is not how I remembered them. They were dry passageways through which one could get all around campus during a night of "tunneling." I should note that tunneling was not simply a nerdy male pursuit. As I discovered on a few occasions, it made for an inexpensive, but memorable date.

George Smeaton '83
Westmoreland, N.H.

In the latest *Macalester Today* the tunnels were described as a place no one ventured into. But when I was at Mac from 1968 to 1970, I remember at least one party in a tunnel connected to Doty—and my memories are confirmed by the 1968-69 yearbook (page 54), which features several photos of students in the tunnel between Doty and Wallace, covered with paint.

Jacque Eisenbrandt '72
Goodview, Va.

Corrections

- Brianne Farley ("Ink Spot," Fall 2014) is not a former editor. She attended Macalester with the intention of becoming an editor, but after doing two internships in publishing realized she didn't like the work. She has been an illustrator, designer, and children's book author ever since.

- In the article on Macalester's connections with the Mississippi ("Life on the River," Fall 2014) we mistakenly stated that Macalester sold a conservation easement to the city of Inver Grove Heights and Friends of the Mississippi River. The college actually sold the easement to Dakota County.

- The name of the talented photographer responsible for the Barbie images shown in the last issue ("Barbie and Friends," Fall 2014) was misspelled. It is actually **Nicole Houff '98 (nicolehouff.com)**. The above Barbie-as-flight attendant image is also hers. We apologize for the error.

LETTERS POLICY

We invite letters of 300 words or fewer. Letters may be edited for clarity, style, and space and will be published based on their relevance to issues discussed in *Macalester Today*. You can send letters to llamb@macalester.edu or to *Macalester Today*, Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105.

Seeing Mental Illness

BY BRIAN ROSENBERG

Judy Syrkin-Nikolau '15 is a senior neuroscience major with minors in biology, computer science, and psychology. For three years she ran track—sprints and hurdles—and since her junior year she has been heavily involved in dance. Recently she helped lead a campus fund drive to support Alzheimer's disease research. Like many other Macalester students I have met, she seems far more poised and articulate than one should be at such a young age. Certainly she is more poised and articulate than I was at a comparable point (though, to be fair, that is setting the bar pretty low).

Since arriving at Macalester, Judy has also battled depression and an eating disorder.

In this sense, too, she is like many other students at the college. That she has waged this battle successfully is a tribute both to her own strength and to the support provided by others.

Judy has not only given me permission to tell her story: she has told it herself, in a column for *The Mac Weekly* that I would encourage everyone to read. It is powerful, informative, and brave. (See themacweekly.com/2014/09/why-it-matters-talking-about-mental-illness). This is not the sort of story that Macalester or any institution features in its admissions materials or on its website, but it is, in some ways, as much a part of contemporary college life as the tales of academic success or splendid community service. And it is a story to which we must attend.

We must attend to it because it is familiar to any of us who work on a college campus and because it should be of concern to anyone who cares about higher education. The promise we

make to the students and families who chose a small residential college like Macalester is that we will, for four years, provide a home and a supportive community; that we will attend to their needs and foster their development both inside and outside the classroom. We like to take some credit for the many accomplish-



President Brian Rosenberg

ments of our students. We should be equally prepared to take responsibility for their challenges. We will never be perfect, but we must strive always for perfection because the cost of failure is so high.

We must attend to it because we must understand and be grateful for the skill and dedication of those on our campuses—in counseling centers and residence halls, in the offices of deans and chaplains—who work with struggling students every day. Having witnessed this work for much of the past two decades, I cannot express strongly enough my admiration for those who do it. Their efforts are largely invisible, but they are es-

sential to the well-being of our students; demand for their services always exceeds the supply; and we quite literally could not function as a place of teaching and learning without their presence. It is past time for us to acknowledge and thank them.

We must attend to it because, somehow, we have placed upon these remarkable and accomplished young people—our children and grandchildren, students and employees, neighbors and friends—expectations and pressures that many find difficult to bear. This is a situation I ponder as both a college president and a parent. I do not believe it is a nostalgic exaggeration to say that life for young people used to be different: less programmed, less freighted with early expectations, less constricted by the many markers of success and accomplishment. The percentage of today's college students who leave high school on some sort of prescription medication for anxiety, depression, or an attention deficit disorder is staggeringly high. On whom must the responsibility for this situation fall? Not, I think, on

the children.

So as you read about the achievements of our students in this or any other issue of *Macalester Today*, as you watch them walk proudly across the stage at Commencement, bear in mind that, for many of them, their most impressive victories will be neither seen nor spoken of and that they had supporters along the way without whose aid the more visible accomplishments—the honors and awards and community recognitions—would not have been possible. ■

BRIAN ROSENBERG is the president of Macalester College.

Summit to St. Clair

CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY



Fossil hunting in Madagascar: Madeline Marshall '12 (center and inset) and Professor Ray Rogers (far right).

FAMOUS FOSSIL

Q: What's five inches long, 68 million years old, and changing what we know about the dawning of mammalian life?

A: A complete skull of *Vintana sertichi*, a long-extinct mammal that lived in the Southern Hemisphere when dinosaurs walked the earth

Geology professor **Ray Rogers** and then-student **Madeline Marshall '12** were part of a team searching for fish fossils in Madagascar in 2010 when they found a rich fossil bed. A block of soft rock containing a number of fossils was sent to Stony Brook University, where it was found to **contain the** unique treasure.

Only two **other** fossil mammal skulls from the age of dinosaurs, both smaller, **have** ever been found in the Southern Hemisphere, so this find may **greatly** expand what's known about mammalian life of the **time**. The discovery is so extraordinary that it's been written up in publications from the journal *Nature* to *The New York Times*.

"Discoveries like *Vintana* are game changers," says Rogers, who has studied fossils in Montana, Argentina, and Zimbabwe as well as Madagascar. "For decades we could only speculate on the anatomy and evo-

lutionary relationships of this extinct mammal group. They were only known from a few teeth and jaw fragments. Finding a complete skull is a major breakthrough. Now we know what these beasts looked like, and more importantly, we can include them in comprehensive studies of early mammal evolution."

Skull analysis suggests that *Vintana* weighed about 20 pounds, had an acute sense of smell, large eyes, and strong jaws. Said to resemble a groundhog, *Vintana* has no known living descendants.

Marshall, now a doctoral student in paleobiology at the University of Chicago, calls the chance to work on paleontology expeditions as an undergrad "incredible. I was hooked by the excitement of discovery, exploring new places, and trying to figure out what the Earth looked like tens of millions of years ago. There's not much that could beat how exciting that is!"



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF RAY ROGERS

WORTH 1,000 WORDS

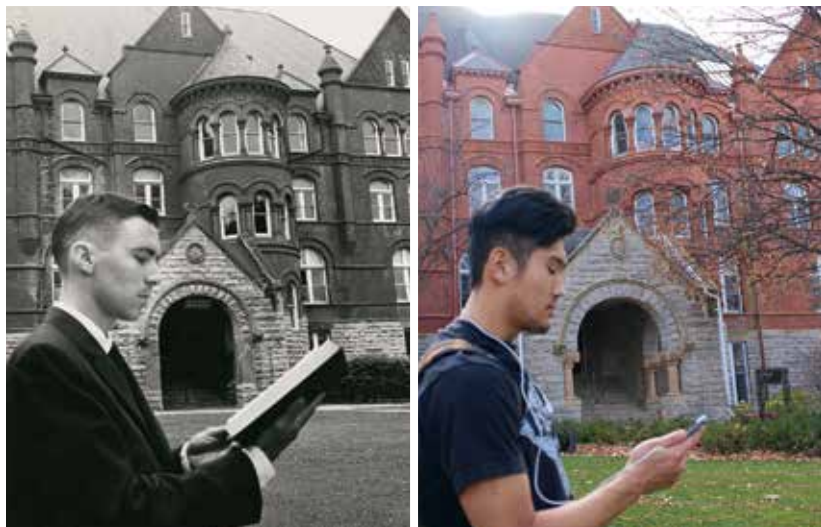


PHOTO: ALESE HALVORSON

IN HIS INTRODUCTION to Photography course, Professor **Eric Carroll** took an unusual tack. Rather than the conventional approach of beginning with black and white photography, he taught an all-digital course in which the focus was on using photography to tell a story.

It's a popular approach, judging by how quickly the class filled up last fall with mostly non-art majors—and accumulated a waiting list of 60 students.

"I couldn't teach this course the same way anywhere else," says Carroll. "Students here are so engaged with the outside world. There's a great eagerness to have a discussion that goes beyond the classroom." Early in the semester, photographer Wing Young Huie, famed for his social documentary photography of Twin Citians, spoke to the class. He coached students on how to respectfully approach people they sought to photograph. "Sometimes the most successful photographs are the

result of a dialogue," says Carroll. "Photography gives you license to talk with people."

For one assignment, students traveled to various city neighborhoods seeking photographs that would tell stories about migration. The resulting exhibition was part of Macalester's International Roundtable, which had migration as its theme.

Muyuan "Sherry" He '16 (Shenzhen, China) liked Carroll's class because of "his sense of humor and constructive critique of my artwork—he always points out the problems in my photos, and that really helps me make progress," says the studio art major.

Another assignment took students to the college library to work with archivist **Ellen Holt-Werle '97**. After choosing a photo from the archives, students set out to recreate the setting in a contemporary photograph that shared lighting, point of view, etc., with its archival counterpart. It proved to be a great technical exercise as well as a window into how time has changed the campus.

"That Macalester has so many old photos from decades ago is simply incredible," says **Taro Takigawa '15** (Moraga, Calif.). "Looking through the photos was a real privilege; I got a sense of what the campus was like, how students dressed, and how our campus has changed through the years. Kirk Hall still looks and feels exactly the same."

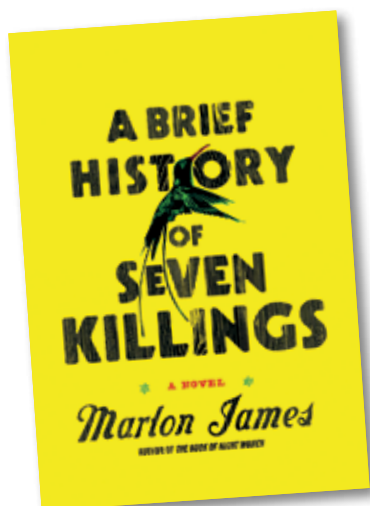


WEB CONNECT: macalester.edu/news/2014/11/worth-1000-words

PHOTO: DARIN BACK

MAC PROF'S HIT

English Professor **Marlon James**'s new book, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* (Riverhead), has been receiving glowing reviews and inclusions on best-books-of-the-year lists from major media including *The Huffington Post*, *The Washington Post*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *The New York Times*, which also ran a major profile of James in its October 1, 2014, issue. Reviews were also published in *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *Wall Street Journal*, *L.A. Times*, and National Public Radio, among many others. *Publishers Weekly* wrote: "Upon finishing, the reader will have completed an indispensable and essential history of Jamaica's troubled years. This novel should be required reading."



CLIMATE COLLABORATION CLASS

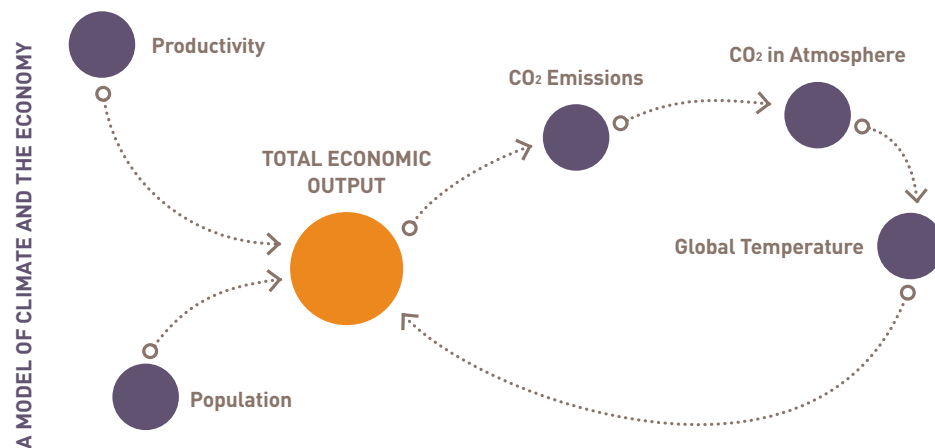
Climate change poses an imminent threat, yet consensus on how to address the problem has been elusive. Wouldn't it be nice if scientists and economists could and would talk to each other? A core group of Mac students prepared themselves to do just that by taking the course Climate Change: Science, Economics, and Policy.

With the support of the Fund for the Advancement of Collaborative Teaching, Professors **Sarah West** (economics) and **Louisa Bradtmiller** (environmental studies) developed a course that incorporates climate change science and environmental economics.

Students jumped at the chance to learn how to use "integrated assessment models" to bring together what is known about the sources and effects of carbon emissions with the economic costs and benefits of abatement.

Megan Davitt '17 (Albany, N.Y.), majoring in both environmental studies and economics, is involved with climate justice efforts and participated in the People's Climate March in New York City last fall. She hopes to work in the corporate sector encouraging sustainable business practices. "This course gives a practical perspective on climate change and will allow me to present arguments based on facts. The models we're using can also be used to look at other environmental issues."

Forest Redlin '17 (Tempe, Ariz.), who also studies both areas, says, "There's much uncertainty about how to quantify these issues and how best to move forward. I wanted



to understand the models to know the efficient actions to take."

Sometimes actions that appear to be efficient and fair aren't. The popular concept of a universal standard—requiring each country to reduce carbon emissions by the same percentage—is both disproportionately hard on poor people in developing countries and costlier than permit trading systems, in which companies must buy a permit to emit a certain quantity of emissions. By using integrated assessment models, students learned not only which actions are most effective in reducing carbon emissions, but also their economic consequences.

Both professors felt strongly that such a course was needed. "Solutions to human-caused climate change have to involve both scientific and economic expertise," says Bradtmiller, "but when we looked for a text-

book to use, there wasn't one."

Bradtmiller taught climate science for three weeks, when assignments included reading the recent report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In the fourth week, West began teaching about economic modeling and concepts like discount rates, e.g., how much do we care about what happens to coastal countries and islands 50 years down the road?

"A collaboration like this wouldn't be possible at a big university," says West. "As members of two different departments, we probably wouldn't even know each other."

"From the time I read the course description, I said, 'I have to be in this class,'" says Redlin. "It's about understanding both climate science and economics, so we can maximize the well-being of present and future generations."



New Veep

D. ANDREW BROWN is the new Vice President for Advancement, overseeing Advancement Operations, Alumni Relations, Communications and Public Relations, and Development, and working closely with President Brian Rosenberg and the Board of Trustees. Brown came from the University of Minnesota Foundation, where he served as Assistant Vice President for Development overseeing campaign planning, advising development projects, and managing a team of fundraisers. He attended the University of California–Berkeley and earned a law degree from the University of Minnesota. Brown succeeds Tommy Bonner, who held the position for nine years.

BASKETBALL IN BRAZIL

BASKETBALL PLAYER **Erin Murray '16** (Sparta, Wis.) stepped out of her comfort zone last summer, playing games with teammates she'd just met, against opponents who spoke a different language, on courts thousands of miles from St. Paul.

After a successful first season at Mac, Murray was part of a select group of players invited to join the Division III women's basketball team's Brazil Tour 2014. The second Mac basketball player in as many years to be invited—**Dylan Kilgour '16** (La Crescenta, Calif.) played on last year's men's team—Murray eagerly embraced the opportunity.

The whirlwind nine-day tour began in Orlando, where the team practiced for a day and a half before leaving for Brazil. Eighteen hours after leaving Orlando, they were on the court for their first game, a turnaround time Murray calls "exciting but jarring." Even with such a narrow window of time to get acquainted, Murray was struck by the team-oriented focus. "They're all standout players individually—I learned a lot by watching them—but



each person is passionate about supporting one another," she says. "That's key because you only have so much time to mesh, and chemistry is essential."

Portuguese was new to her, requiring adjustments on and off the court, and it was Murray's first time abroad since a childhood trip. The American team lost its first two games but rebounded with two wins, which Murray credits to her team maintaining a positive attitude.

Between games against Brazilian professional teams, Murray and her teammates explored the South American country's life and culture—an intentional part of the program's structure—and formed fast friendships.

Ebola Response

- Because of cases of Ebola in West Africa, two Macalester students on study abroad came back from Sierra Leone and Guinea, and the college is not currently sending students to study in any of the three affected countries. (Liberia is the third.)
- Christy Hanson, dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship and a former USAID chief of infectious diseases, was called upon by the wider community during the Ebola scare. She appeared on local TV news and consulted with Congressperson Betty McCollum and the group preparing Minnesota to deal with patients with Ebola.
- Ensuring that college protocols were in line with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations fell to Dr. Stephanie Walters, medical director of Macalester Health and Wellness. She also trained H&W staff about procedures, should anyone at the college show possible symptoms of Ebola.
- In September the Institute for Global Citizenship held a town hall meeting featuring a panel including Hanson, Walters, and biosecurity expert Dr. Michael T. Osterholm, director of the U of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. Attendees discussed the challenges faced by the international development community, and the roles of the CDC, World Health Organization, and Doctors Without Borders in containing and treating the disease.
- Aaron Colhapp, director of International Student Programs, is in regular contact with students who have loved ones in affected countries, providing support for them.
- **Anoushka Millear '15** (Seattle) did her geography senior capstone project on "Retelling Ebola's 'Outbreak' Narrative."
- Anthropology professor Ron Barrett—co-author of *An Unnatural History of Emerging Infections* (Oxford U Press)—addressed Ebola in his medical anthropology course. And together with geography professor Eric Carter he spoke about the human ecology of Ebola in West Africa for that class and one on medical geography.
- Geography honor society members compiled a GIS map of Bamako, Mali, showing areas large enough for medical helicopter landings for Ebola patients.

CAMPUS NEWS SUMMARY

IMMIGRANT STORIES

Learning about migration is often limited to reading case studies. In four classes taught by anthropology professor Dianna Shandy and sociology professor Mahnaz Kousha last fall, however, the lessons were firsthand and personal, thanks to a partnership with Green Card Voices, a Minneapolis digital storytelling organization.

Green Card Voices films foreign-born Americans' stories, editing each narrative into a five-minute video. Shandy discovered the project when her friend **Masami Suga '90** was asked to film her story. "It fit in with the courses I was teaching, taking big issues on culture and globalization and fitting them into daily life," Shandy says. With help from several offices around campus, she and Kousha secured grant funding to bring Green Card Voices to Macalester.

In September, nine Macalester alumni returned to campus to share their stories on camera: **Andrew Gordon '05** (Jamaica), **Robert Cohanin '80** (Iran), **Regina Santiago '07** (Philippines), **Fabiola Gutierrez '14** (Peru), **Getiria Innocent Onsongo '04** (Kenya), **Vinodh Kutty '89** (Singapore), **Craig Moodie '06** (Jamaica), **June Noronha '70** (Kenya), and **Eliza Rasheed '06** (Maldives).

Shandy and Kousha's students were engaged in each part of the process, from editing to brainstorming social media ideas. "We were listening to people talking about what it's like to come to the U.S.—the struggles and the joys," Shandy says. "You could see everyone in the room was moved."

In October, the college hosted a screening of the stories along with a panel discussion with the featured alumni and students who worked on the project. The Mac alumni narratives are now among 60 videos posted on the organization's website.

The digital format captured more than words alone could, students discovered. "I learned how engaging digital storytelling can be," says **Jake Speirs '16** (Cottage Grove, Minn.), who is continuing his work with Green Card Voices through a January internship.

FOOTBALL CHAMPS



IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, Macalester's football team opened the 2014 season with its rivalry game against Carleton. On a warm, sunny afternoon in front of a large crowd at the Macalester stadium, just as the fourth quarter expired, Michael Abramson kicked the game-winning field goal. The Scots won 17-14 and brought home the Book of Knowledge traveling trophy for the first time in 12 years.

It turned out to be the start of an historic season. In the program's first year in the Midwest Conference, Macalester finished 9-2, a school record. The Scots rolled through their Midwest Conference schedule and won the conference championship—the football program's first title since 1947—after being picked fourth in the conference's North Division in the coaches' preseason poll.

That championship sent the Scots into the NCAA Division III playoff tournament in November. The team's storybook season ended

in the first round, however, when Macalester lost decisively to six-time national title winner University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Several Scots were honored with accolades after their winning season. Eleven players received Midwest Conference recognition (including seven first-team honors), quarterback **Samson Bialostok '15** was named the Midwest Conference Offensive Skill MVP, and seventh-year head coach Tony Jennison was named North Division Coach of the Year.

The team's closeknit culture was key to its record-breaking season, players said. "We love each other, play for each other, don't make excuses, and never accept defeat," Bialostok told *The Mac Weekly*. "That's why we've been successful."



ARCHIVAL OBJECT

Among the stranger objects in the Macalester Archives are these Glee Club paddles from 1928, 1939, and 1940. Was there once an initiation ritual designed for new Glee Club members? Were they punished for singing flat? No other information about them is available, but perhaps one of Mac's alumni historians will fill us in (see page 2 for the back story on last issue's archival object—a battered mystery valise).

Tobacco-free Mac

MACALESTER BECAME A TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS on January 1, joining 975 campuses nationwide and 50 campuses in Minnesota that have also made that commitment.

The college has been addressing tobacco use on campus since the passage of the Minnesota Clean Air act in 1975, adopting its first significant policy change in 1994 when it prohibited smoking in designated buildings. In 2008 the smoke-free policy was expanded to include residence halls.

By 2010, a Tobacco Use on Campus Task Force—made up of faculty, staff, and student smokers, non-smokers, and former smokers—recommended that Macalester become a fully tobacco-free campus. That

policy began in 2013 with restricting smoking on campus to beyond 25 feet of buildings.

Nationally and locally, policies also continue to change. In November 2011 the American College Health Association recommended that colleges and universities adopt policies supporting a campus-wide tobacco-free environment. The FDA has recommended that e-cigarettes also be banned.

And Macalester students are smoking less. Those smoking within the last 30 days dropped from 29 percent in 2005 to 10 percent in 2013, and those using tobacco daily dropped from 5 percent in 2008 to 1 percent in 2013.

Crisis Connection

At CaringBridge, a website that allows ailing people to communicate with friends, two Mac alums are making a difference.

BY JULIE KENDRICK → PHOTO BY STEVE NIEDORF '72

Sometimes the most ordinary thing sparks the most extraordinary idea. In the case of CaringBridge, a free and private online forum for those experiencing a health crisis, the spark came through the birth of a baby. Back in 1997, when the Internet was just beginning to be widely used and social media had not yet been invented, CaringBridge founder and CEO Sona Mehring had a friend whose baby was born prematurely, and wanted to get the word out to friends and family. “The couple asked me to let everyone know what was happening with the imminent birth,” Mehring says. “Instead of making dozens of emotional and time-consuming phone calls, I decided to create a website right there at my dining room table. The idea that became CaringBridge was born the same night as their little girl.”

Since its inception, 458,035 CaringBridge communities have been created, with more than 1.8 billion visits to personal websites. Headquartered in Eagan, Minn., the organization now employs more than 50 people.

Even with all the changes in technology over the years, many in the nonprofit still see that “founder story” as a touchstone. Two Macalester graduates, CaringBridge creative director **Mary Lou Hidalgo '91** and customer relationship marketing director **Melissa Bear '98**, recently spoke about the journeys that brought them to this organization that so uniquely combines heart and tech.

“I love to tell our founder story, because it’s a manifestation of how all great ideas and innovations happen when a genuine need meets a desire to improve the common good,” says Bear. “After Sona built that first website, people kept approaching her to create websites for them during health crises. They saw the benefit of a website that kept informed those who cared about them, and they received great comfort from the support they received in return.”

When a check showed up in the mail one day, Mehring called the woman who had sent it, who told her, “You need to do this.” Mehring eventually quit her day job in the for-profit tech sector to create the nonprofit organization.

With the objective of helping people who are in vulnerable conditions, a free CaringBridge website allows sharing of updates, photos, and videos, while connecting with friends and family who want to help. The CaringBridge community includes authors, visitors, and donors from all 50 states and more than 230 countries. As many as 500,000 people worldwide connect daily through caringbridge.org.

For Hidalgo, it’s the ultimate example of using technology for good. “We all talk about how technology distances people or results in superficial connections, but this organization is a shining example of how technology can help people build bridges to each another, not just through space and time, but emotionally, too.”

The simplicity of the website’s design and its ease of use belie the

work that goes into making it a safe and supportive space. “With so much concern these days about what social media are doing with private data, as well as fears about hacking,” Bear says, “it’s important to us that our users control their own content. We don’t advertise or monetize, so we have no pressure from advertisers to share private information.”

The organization regularly hosts visits from website users, asking them to share their stories with staff. A recent presenter was a mother who described her son’s cancer journey. She told the group, “Sometimes when I used CaringBridge it was 1 a.m., I was in the hospital, and I was typing through tears. There wasn’t anyone I could talk to, but I needed to tell the story.” And while sharing the narrative is important, the messages sent in response are equally so, feeding hungry hearts. “People uncover a level of support that surprises them,” Hidalgo says. “They tell us, ‘I didn’t realize so many people cared about me.’”

Bear, who is finishing a master’s degree in nonprofit management, says her job is a perfect match for her skill set. “It’s a wonderful marriage of technology and doing good in the world,” she says. “I’ve always been customer-centered, and here my job is to make sure we start building relationships the minute someone creates a website, teaching them all the ways we can help them engage with their support network.” Bear also manages word-of-mouth marketing, web communications, email, social media, and the active base of 2,500 volunteers.

With nearly 95 percent of its funding coming from individual donors, CaringBridge has an unusual financial model among nonprofits. “As gratifying as that funding stream is, it also can be volatile,” Bear says. “We have to be responsive at all times. If we aren’t providing value, our customers will tell us, in terms of less funding.” In another twist, their most successful marketing comes from word-of-mouth referrals. “We’re a little magical,” she says. “Especially when you consider the inevitability that everyone will need CaringBridge sometime in their lives.”

That magic extends to the organization’s far-reaching impact on so many lives. “Many people have told me that they’ll frequently reread messages posted on their website,” Hidalgo says. Bear adds, “The presence of a strong community is a huge factor in healing and recovery. For many, it’s more important than medical care.” She points to a recent survey in which 91 percent of respondents said they felt CaringBridge helped in their healing process.

Bear, a St. Paul native, enrolled at Macalester at the urging of a high school teacher. “She told me, ‘It’s your kind of place,’ and that was certainly true,” Bear says. Hidalgo, on the other hand, followed to Minnesota a young man she later married. For both women, the chief lesson they learned from Macalester is clear. As Hidalgo puts it: “If you don’t leave here and do something worthwhile, you’re wasting an education.” ■

JULIE KENDRICK is a regular contributor to Macalester Today.



Mary Lou Hidalgo '91 (left) and Melissa Bear '98 show off the CaringBridge website at the organization's headquarters in Eagan, Minn.



Bard of Rock

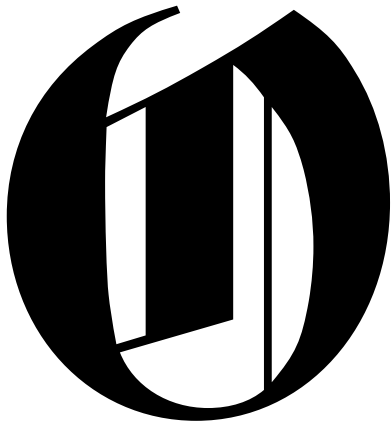
Legendary rock journalist **Charles M. Young '73**
wrote about many of music's greats.

BY KATE HOPPER '95 → ILLUSTRATION BY MARCELLUS HALL

The last time I saw music writer Charles M. Young, known by his friends as “Chuck” and affectionately by my family as “Chuckie,” was in August 2013. I was in New York for a few days with my family, so Chuck and I met for lunch at an Indian place not far from the Upper West Side apartment where he’d lived for over three decades.



Over the years Chuck wrote funny and incisive features on some of the most influential musicians of our time—Led Zeppelin, The Who, The Eagles, Keith Richards.



“Write every morning at the same time, and don’t smoke.” I promised. He began sending regular letters to make sure I was still writing (and not smoking), and he’d often include a copy of his latest magazine feature with words of encouragement.

A legendary rock journalist, Chuck had written profiles of many of music’s greats, and that day over lunch I wondered if there was one in particular that stood out. Which of the profiles he’d written had been his favorite?

He raised his eyebrows slightly and, always determined to make me more precise with my language, said, “The one I’m most proud of or the one that was the most fun to write?” I smiled. “Either. Both.”

He took a bite of his dal and chewed for a moment. “Well, I’m probably most proud of my cover story on the Sex Pistols,” he said, smiling. “I’m not sure they liked it because I portrayed them exactly as they were, but I loved that piece.” I smiled, remembering Chuck’s colorful descriptions of the Pistols. “And,” said Chuck, looking at me over the rims of his glasses, “Keith Richards was probably the most fun.”

“Keith!” I said. “I should have guessed.” In the introduction to his 1982 story on Richards for *Musician* magazine, Chuck had written, “When I interviewed Jimmy Page a few months ago, I felt that I had my hands firmly on the steering wheel while Page was stomping on the brake pedal every few feet. With Richards I felt strapped in the baby seat as Keith drove way past the speed limit to whatever conversational terrain he chose.”

“Sometimes,” Chuck told me, “You meet these guys and in person they are nothing like you thought they’d be. But Keith was everything I expected and hoped for and more.” He laughed then and so did I.

Charles M. Young was born in 1951 in Waukesha, Wis., the youngest child of Alice and the Rev. G. Aubrey Young, a Presbyterian minister. Though from an early age Chuck resented the pressure of being a

ver tiny dishes of lentils, curried tofu, and dal we talked health and family and writing. Years earlier, when I had mentioned to Chuck that I wanted to be a writer, he took that dream—and me—seriously. A few weeks later, a package arrived from him containing a thin volume on avoiding writer’s block and a letter that said,

preacher’s kid, he credited his parents for engendering in him curiosity, critical thinking skills, and a clear sense of right and wrong. “I was encouraged to have opinions on abstract principles right from the start,” he wrote in a 1991 story on AC/DC.

When Chuck was 12, his father took a job with the state government, and the family moved to Madison, Wis., where Chuck embraced the political and intellectual excitement that thrummed around the University of Wisconsin campus. It was the perfect place for Chuck to come of age: “Wonderful bookstores, wonderful record stores, big anti-war movement. Everything was dangerous and alive.”

Then in the fall of 1969, following in the footsteps of his brother **John Young ’63** and sister **Lois Young ’65**, Chuck headed to Macalester, where his anti-establishment leanings only grew in strength. “On the political and social front, that was a very important period of our lives,” says classmate **Matt Miller ’73**. “Campus had an anything-goes feel to it. There was a bit of a fuck-you attitude to the establishment.”

Chuck certainly embraced that attitude, which infused his pieces in *The Mac Weekly*, which he began writing for during his freshman year. “They let me say what I wanted in the newspaper, which was brave of them,” Chuck said in a 2001 interview with music critic Steven Ward. “I cringe when I read my old stuff, but what better time to be sophomore than when you’re a sophomore?”

In Chuck’s weekly column, alternately titled “Botulism” and “Footbotulism,” he covered football, politics, and campus goings-on with the flare of a true cynic and a heavy dose of bathroom humor. And it was in *The Mac Weekly* that Chuck began occasionally opening his pieces with Bible quotes, a habit he’d carry to *Rolling Stone*, where it would earn him the nickname “The Rev.”

“We consciously wanted to get away from the notion of a campus newspaper,” said Miller, who with **Stuart Smith ’73** took the helm at the paper their senior year. “The more outrageous the better.”

Chuck was perfect for the job when he turned in his copy on time—but he rarely did. He had already begun his lifelong habit of pushing deadlines. “Once, when he was unconscionably late, we nearly went to press without his weekly football story,” recalls Smith. “At the last minute, he came up with three paragraphs, the first of which read: ‘The article I wrote about the Eau Claire game will not be appearing this week. Because we lost so badly, 39-7, I felt obligated to write the first serious article in my lengthy career as a journalist, but after four days of sweating over my typewriter, found myself utterly incapable of doing so. So I overshot my goddam deadline. So we lost. So what?’” For another issue his fellow editors had to barricade Chuck in his dorm room to finish his column. “He was furious with us,” says Miller.



Some of the major themes of Chuck's writing can be found in his earliest *Rolling Stone* pieces: the importance of honesty and integrity and the power of music to bring joy to people's lives.

After graduating from Macalester, Chuck worked in a sheet metal factory for a year to earn money for Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. But at Columbia it was obvious to Chuck that he wasn't interested in the square reporting jobs his classmates were vying for. He wanted to write about rock & roll, or more specifically, about the people who played rock & roll. And the opportunity soon presented itself. In 1976, Chuck won *Rolling Stone*'s first national college writing competition and was invited to write for the magazine. Soon he was an associate editor writing the "Random Notes" column and begging for feature assignments.

Chuck's move into mainstream reporting didn't shake the off-color humor he had so carefully cultivated at *The Mac Weekly*. In his review of the Ramones' album *Road to Ruin*, he wrote, "I've been working at this magazine for two years now and every album I've endorsed has gone over like a fart in the elevator. What we have here is not (in the words of Cool Hand Luke) a failure to communicate; it is (in the words of Richard Nixon) a public-relations problem. You bastards just don't believe me."

But Chuck also retained his cracking wit and fine-tuned understanding of a perfect sentence. "The thing about Chuck that was true from the beginning was that he was a fantastic writer," says Hillary Johnson, a longtime friend and fellow journalism school graduate. "He overlaid upon that his own sensibility, and it was a very winning combination."

Chuck kicked off his tenure at *Rolling Stone* covering the CBGB Bowery scene in the mid-'70s. He wholeheartedly embraced the punk movement and championed bands like the Ramones. But it was his 1977 cover story "Rock is Sick and Living in London: A Report on the Sex Pistols" for which he is perhaps most famous, a story credited for introducing mainstream America to British punk rock.

Some of the major themes that thread through Chuck's writing over the years can be found in his earliest *Rolling Stone* pieces: the importance of honesty and integrity and the power of music to bring joy to people's lives. After Chuck witnessed Johnny Rotten crack a brief smile during The Sex Pistols concert at Club Lafayette in London, Chuck wondered, "Did that mean, 'Look how great I am!' or 'Look at them have a good time!'? Those have always been divergent roads in rock & roll. The Sex Pistols took the latter, the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

Chuck played his own music, as well. During his *Rolling Stone* days, he played bass with the magazine's house band, the Dry Heaves, then in the early '80s he wrote songs and played for Iron Prostate, a joke punk band that had some success at Manhattan clubs. And through the years he also played for his high school band, the Schmoes, who often

performed at high school reunions.

Chuck left *Rolling Stone* in 1981, going on to write for *Musician* and a number of other magazines, including *Playboy* and *Men's Journal*. Over the years Chuck wrote funny and incisive features on some of the most influential musicians of our time, including Led Zeppelin, The Who, The Eagles, and of course Keith Richards. And in the mid-1990s Chuck returned to *Rolling Stone*, where over the next two decades he wrote some of his finest work, including profiles on Noam Chomsky, Ralph Nader, Jerry Lee Lewis, and the Butthole Surfers. "As he got older his writing got even better," says Johnson. "That was the mature Chuck, and they were beautiful pieces."

In 2010, Chuck was excited to join former journalism school classmates David Lindorff, John Grant, and Linn Washington, Jr. at the This Can't Be Happening! news collective to write about the American political and cultural scene. Chuck was especially inspired by the Occupy Movement and spent days reporting from Zuccotti Park.

When I saw Chuck at that last lunch, he was not well. Oh, he was the same witty, wry Chuck I'd always known, but he was unsteady on his feet and walking with a cane. Six months earlier he'd been diagnosed with a stage-four glioblastoma brain tumor. Though he had surgery to remove the tumor and was undergoing regular chemotherapy, the prognosis wasn't good, and he could only write about 200 words a day before exhaustion took over. "I wouldn't wish this on anyone," he said, then turned the conversation back to music, writing, life.

In his 2004 *Rolling Stone* article "The Last Days of Johnny Ramone," Chuck wrote that Ramone had, "spread joy throughout the world to people who really needed it."

Chuck Young did the same thing, and when he died on August 18, 2014, he left behind not only a lifetime of brilliant writing but also countless people whose lives he had touched with encouraging calls and emails, much-needed morale boosts at just the right times. I certainly wasn't alone in calling him a mentor and a friend.

"There was a time that we practically lived in Chuck's tiny New York apartment, and we were a handful," says Paul Leary, guitarist for the Butthole Surfers. "He was our angel...everybody's favorite uncle. He was like a normal person. Except that he got us. Not many 'normal' people would come near us back then."

"He was everybody's touchstone," says Johnson. "And he's dearly missed." ■

KATE HOPPER is the author of *Use Your Words: A Writing Guide for Mothers and Ready for Air: A Journey Through Premature Motherhood* and coauthor of the forthcoming *Silent Running: Our Family's Journey to the Finish Line with Autism (April 2015)*.

The Indispensables

Meet a Few of the People Who Make Mac Run

BY ERIN PETERSON → PHOTOS BY DAVID J. TURNER

THEY GET LITTLE FANFARE, but these staff members help make Macalester's campus cleaner, brighter, safer, and more efficient. In short, they make Macalester better for everyone.

There's no question that the people in the pages that follow help make students' experiences at Macalester great. Students may not know these staff members by name, but they know the incredible work that they do.

They're the ones who set up every single chair students and parents sit in on graduation day, who serve every hot meal on a cold winter's day, who—quite literally—keep the lights on.

At Macalester, they are the quiet but critical staff members who make sure that the community runs seamlessly while professors and students focus on their work in the classrooms, labs, and library.

We chose five longtime staff members and asked them to share the details of their jobs, the joys and challenges of their work, and what keeps them coming back, year after year.



“People assume their lights and coffee pot and computer are going to work, so it’s only when there are problems that I hear from them. For me? No news is good news.”

Ed Gerten

Title: Electrician

Macalester tenure:

29 years

Macalester has long prided itself on its environmentally sustainable practices, and for electrician Ed Gerten, that means there’s always an interesting problem to solve.

This past summer, for example, he and the other 10 members of his crew (total years at Macalester: more than 200) were charged with upgrading the student rooms in Doty and Dupre with energy-efficient LED lighting—without breaking the bank. Commercial options were expensive—more than \$30 per fixture—but Gerten did some tinkering in his office and found an even better solution. “We made modifications to the existing lighting and went from 72 watts to 30 watts,” he says. “And once we got the energy rebate from [the energy company] Xcel, it cost us just six bucks a room.” The payback period for the improvements, he reports proudly, is less than a year.

While Macalester has added some automated systems to modify night-time lighting and temperatures to save money, Gerten believes there’s value in simplicity. “There are all sorts of exotic lighting control systems,” he says. “But some of the older systems are the most reliable. It’s not too complicated to turn on a light, but more sophisticated systems just create another potential failure area.”

Gerten has up to three student workers helping him at a time, and he tries to instill in them his knowledge and work ethic; he knows it will complement the Macalester degree they eventually earn. “If they have a house, they’ll have an idea of how stuff works,” he says. “It’s a skill they can use for the rest of their lives.” (Indeed, one of his favorite student workers earned a degree in English—and promptly turned around and got a job as an electrician.)

Regardless of students’ interest in the trade, they never take his explanations for granted, says Gerten. “With students, you can always count on questions, one after another: ‘Why? Why? Why am I doing it this way? Education is part of my job.’”

“I started out in banking, and I got used to working with so much money that it didn’t seem real. But when a parent [of modest means] calls me, panicking about whether or not they can pay the \$120 they owe, I know that feeling is real. I understand the importance of respecting that.”



Elmira Marshall

Title: Cashier in the student accounts office

Macalester tenure: 22 years

When Elmira Marshall started out at Macalester in 1992, she saw almost every student on campus during each of their four years. She collected tuition payments and cashed small checks, sold laundry tokens, and deposited money from student organizations. She answered the phones and talked to parents who were paying their child’s tuition fees.

These days, with many of these transactions done online, she doesn’t see a steady stream of students like she used to, but about a quarter of the student body still finds their way to her office each year. Parents call frequently to clarify a charge or make sure a tuition payment has gone through. “When the phone rings, it’s not an

automated system answering, it’s me,” she says. “And if I’m not at my desk, I try to call back within the hour. People appreciate it when they hear the same voice over the years, and a lot of times I’ll hear parents say, ‘You made it pleasant for me to hand over my money.’”

Marshall’s empathetic, drama-free approach is critical when dealing with an emotional topic like money, she says. “Parents are paying a lot of money, and I try to think about what it’s like to be in their shoes,” she says. “Even if it’s a problem I can’t solve, I never leave the call until I make sure I get them to the right person. It never pays to be rude.”

One of the greatest joys of her job, she says, is watching students grow into themselves over time. She sees first-year students, “shy and fresh and bright-eyed,” transform into edgier versions of themselves before the first semester is over. “After three months, their hair might be blue. And I can’t tell you how many students have shown me their belly-button piercings,” she says. “But by their senior year? They almost all revert back—the colors are gone, the piercings are gone. They’re more mature—they’re adults! And that’s fun to watch.”

*"I never miss a day
because I love being here,
serving my kids."*



Brandi Anderson

Title: Lunch server at
Café Mac

Macalester tenure: 14 years

Brandi Anderson landed at Café Mac after attending St. Paul's Humboldt High School and putting in a short stint with Transition to Independence (TTI), a community-based program designed to give special education students the skills they need to succeed in the world. She's been serving up lunches to hungry students at Café Mac ever since.

Anderson's responsibilities include stocking the stations with bagels and bread, setting up taco and baked potato bars, and serving up hot dishes from a rotating menu. And while she ladles out a standard-sized portion for each student, there's one dish that students consistently crave: "They always want more rice," she says. "And I always give it to them. The students are my customers, and that's what I'm here for."

Mac students are good at reminding her of their dietary needs, says Anderson, whether that means being vegan, gluten-free, or allergic to nuts. She, in turn, offers her take on any dish that she knows has a kick. "I don't want students to burn their tongues!" she says. "I tell them if something's spicy."

Anderson adores the students—who refer to her as "Miss Brandi"—for their friendliness, and occasionally doles out some advice when the going gets tough. "When they tell me they're tired, they're stressing out, or they have some history thing to do, I remind them to take things one day at a time," she says. "That's all you can do."

Her permanently positive attitude comes from her mom, Anderson reports, who taught her to stay both focused and kind. In addition to her standard-issue uniform, Anderson pins on a purple ribbon every day as a nod to her sister, who struggles with lupus.

And while many Mac students face years before they land their perfect gig, Anderson says she's already arrived. "This is my dream, to work here," she says. "I take my job very seriously."

Mark Holte

Title: Technical supervisor in art and art history

Macalester tenure: More than 20 years

Mark Holte knows that most Macalester students who walk into an art class have spent much of their lives in their heads, deep in the pages of books and ideas. And often, he says, they end up craving more tactile experiences. “Lots of students come to the art department because they want to use their hands,” he says. “They want to make a connection with materials, with something solid.”

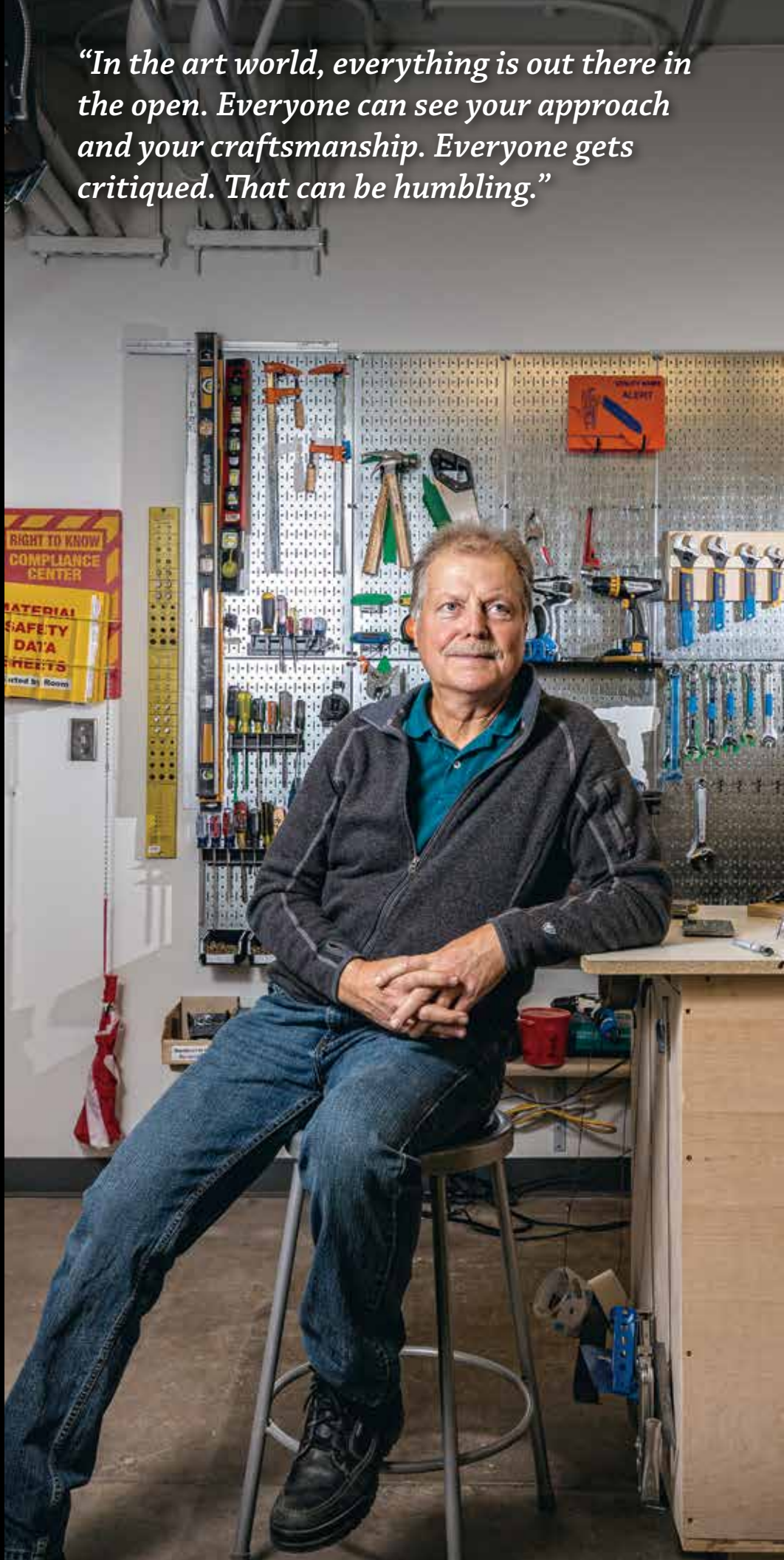
Thanks to renovations made to the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, which re-opened in 2012, students have more opportunities than ever to turn their ideas into objects. And when they start taking those first, tentative steps into creating, Holte is right there with them.

He is the staff member responsible for ensuring that the department’s equipment—from foundry furnaces to metal-casting equipment—is in working order. Holte also provides a supportive nudge when students fear using large and potentially dangerous tools. “A student might want to use the lightest little tool to carve wood, but when they realize it’s going to take them 10 years to finish a project, I’ll pull them over to a saw that they’d normally never look at,” he says. “They want to know they can use it without cutting a finger off.”

Seeing that transformation in students—the shift from fear to confidence—is one of the most rewarding parts of his job, says Holte. “I love it when students walk in the door and are uncomfortable, because you know they’re taking a risk to be in an art class. Here, it’s not a competition. It’s more about helping people make progress.”

And sometimes, he says, that progress extends well beyond Macalester’s campus. Thanks to the Twin Cities’ thriving art community, Holte often sees familiar names plastering posters for local gallery shows or teaching the next generation of artists. “I’ve seen students go on to make labels for music albums and beer bottles,” he says. “They’re teaching a class or they’re director of an arts program. It’s exciting.”

“In the art world, everything is out there in the open. Everyone can see your approach and your craftsmanship. Everyone gets critiqued. That can be humbling.”



“Barb has institutional knowledge you can’t find anywhere else—she’s always got the answer when I’ve got a question. And she does everything perfectly.”

—KYLE WRIGHT, Custodial Shift Supervisor



Barb Olson

Title: Custodian

Macalester tenure: 31 years

When Barb Olson begins her annual cleaning of student rooms after graduation, she knows she'll find some interesting things among the cast-off couches and precariously assembled IKEA shelves. Some years she unearths working laptops and televisions among the trash bags.


And one year she discovered a guinea pig. “Fortunately,” says Olson, “The hall director found a home for it.”

For nearly 30 years, Olson (along with her colleague, 29-year veteran **Judy Van Arx**) has been doing seamless setups for Macalester’s biggest and most important events, from graduation and Reunion to Board of Trustees meetings. Together they assemble stages, arrange chairs, and put out tables for Mock Trial events, science fairs, and everything in between.

Over time, Olson has gained the skills to understand instantly how to arrange chairs with Tetris-like precision. “Sometimes, the diagrams look good on paper, but when you actually do the setup, you’ve got to work with it a little bit,” she says.

Olson also helps give some spaces a little more pomp and circumstance: this past fall, for example, she moved a gorgeous wood table and leather chairs—once reserved only for members of the Board of Trustees—into Turck Hall’s formal lounge, where any student can use them.

Although she’s been doing some of the campus’s heaviest lifting for decades, Olson has been remarkably resilient, rarely getting injured or missing work.

That said, Olson says she knows at least one foolproof trick to avoid injury when moving heavy furniture: “Get somebody else—somebody strong—to do it.” 

ERIN PETERSON, a Minneapolis writer, is a regular contributor to Macalester Today



Field coordinator Meghan Garrity '08 (left), surrounded by images from the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, where she works.



Refugee Responder

Meghan Garrity is devoting her life to international aid work.

BY **ERIN LOHMANN** → PHOTOS BY **NADINE AJAKA/IRC**

Inside Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp, where more than 85,000 Syrian refugees live in boxcar-like caravans, **Meghan Garrity '08** is logging 12-hour workdays. She's the field coordinator for the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a nonprofit that serves as a first line of humanitarian defense, offering basic care and necessities such as child protection services, health care, and cash assistance. Garrity assists newcomers every day, as well as supporting refugees who have been at the camp since it opened in July 2012.

In the intervening years, the Zaatari refugee camp has undergone a drastic transformation, from a rudimentary tent camp caked in red desert sand to a stratified city boasting a market that sells everything from bridal gowns to pita bread. "Everyone's put their own stamp on their houses because they feel they're going to be here awhile," says Garrity.

Material comforts, however, only go so far to assuage feelings of homesickness. As the Syrian civil war approaches its fourth year, recreational activities like soccer offer a welcome mental escape for refugees and aid workers alike. In conjunction with the World Cup, Garrity—once a Macalester soccer player—was up early to cheer on IRC's boys squad as they competed in the camp's championship game.

At the very least, these boys have a healthy outlet, a luxury not afforded to all affected youth. According to a recent U.N. refugee agency report, the number of Syrian refugees has reached 3 million. While world leaders fail to resolve the conflict, aid workers like Garrity bring much-needed stamina and expertise to their humanitarian posts.

Garrity got her first taste of international aid work while interning with a development NGO in Kenya during her senior year. After graduation she moved to Washington, D.C., where a fellow Mac alum helped her land a job as a program officer for Global Communities.

In 2010, when a huge earthquake hit Haiti, Garrity first stepped into the field. Thus began her three-year rotation from one humanitarian crisis to the next. She started out combating cholera in Haiti, moved to South Sudan to assess efforts to return refugees to their homes, then worked in other drought-ridden nations in the Horn of Africa.

Ready to commit to a job that would place her more permanently at an overseas post, Garrity joined the International Rescue Committee in 2012. "I wanted to see the whole program life cycle," she says, rather than briefly encountering various global crises.

Today, from offices in Mafrqa, Jordan, and the Zaatari refugee camp, Garrity manages five program managers and supervises operational logistics for 13 in-country locations. Any given day might find her escorting donors through the camp, leading grant proposal review meetings, coordinating volunteers, or ordering generator fuel. "It's pretty much fighting fires," says Garrity. "But that's what makes it interesting."

Initially, the IRC team in Jordan consisted of 15 staff members and

a \$300,000 budget, but as the emergency continued to unfold, the team grew to over 160 staff and 100 volunteers and a \$13.5 million budget. Although the need for aid continues to grow, donor interest has failed to keep pace. The sense of urgency she and other refugee workers feel is hard to convey to those who aren't witnessing the situation firsthand, says Garrity. "The refugees we're working with are just regular people. Some are middle-class people who had businesses and two-story houses back in Syria and left with only the clothes on their back. They have nothing and are being forced to start over."

"The struggles people are going through—trying to survive here in Jordan, living a difficult life in the camp, having family members either fighting or struggling to survive in Syria—it's hard to imagine how they can even get through the day with those stresses," says Garrity.

Inundated with emails, beneficiary needs, and the strain of fading donor interest, Garrity admits it can be hard to keep her work and personal lives separate. The demands of emergency aid work can quickly lead to burnout, a lesson she learned the hard way after regularly putting in 16-hour days and seven day weeks her first months in Jordan. During a mandatory rest trip home to Michigan, she was forced to recalibrate. "You have a choice," she says. "You can keep going at that pace and only last six months, or you can get some balance and stay longer."

Now she takes advantage of IRC's tri-annual offer to reimburse staff's plane fare so they can leave Jordan and recharge. She also sets aside time to work out, attend the weddings of local staff, and participate in Muslim celebrations like Eid al-Fitr.

Garrity's efforts have been noticed, says Jack Byrne, the International Rescue Committee's country director in Jordan. "She has demonstrated leadership skills and a certain gravitas beyond her age, which others respond to and respect."

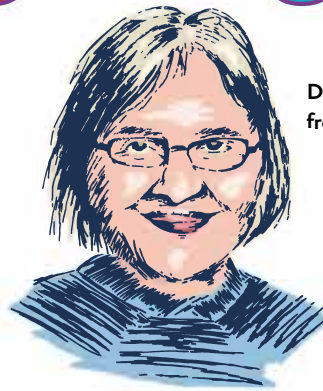
She also commands the respect of her former Macalester teacher, international studies professor James Von Geldern, who gets his most insightful updates on the Syrian refugee crisis from her. "It's not just a matter of understanding the politics," he says. "You have to understand the cultural conflicts too, be able to adapt to other people's cultural standards as you're trying to help them. And you have to be really quick on your feet."

Despite the demands of working overseas in humanitarian aid, Garrity remains undaunted, neither intimidated by the rigor nor calloused by the hardships. "All we can do is respond to the people who are affected," she says. "Until people can return safely, our work will still be needed. That's why I get up every day." ■

ERIN LOHMANN is a *Twin Cities* writer.

50 YEARS OF JANICE

Janice Dickinson '64 loved Macalester College so much she never left. Now, after half a century of working for her alma mater, she's retiring. Here's what those years have looked like!



December 2014 – Retired from Macalester

1 4

Early 1970s – Met writer Alex Haley when he lived at the International Center while writing part of his blockbuster book *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*



7 0 S



August 1964 – Started working at Mac as secretary (later assistant) in the International House (later Center)

6 4



Summer 1964 – Traveled to Little Rock, New Orleans, Jackson with Ambassadors for Friendship program



Summer 1963 – Worked in salad prep at Amsterdam Hilton through SWAP program

6 3



September 1960 – Started Macalester College

6 0



1960–64 – Lived in Wallace Hall, majored in international relations

6 0 S



J A N

1 4

June 2014 – Helped organize
the Class of 1964's
50th Reunion



2002 – Started work as
Alumni Relations assistant

0 2

0 4

2004 – Visited Iceland
with Mac Alumni trip



2000 – Started working part
time as wedding coordinator
for House of Hope Church

0 0



8 4

1970s and '80s – Visited
England (met P.D. James!),
Scotland, Ireland, New
Zealand, Australia



1984 – Was sole staff person to
speak at the retirement of former
Mac President John B. Davis

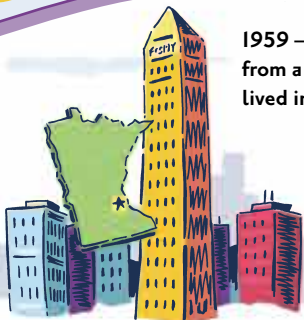


8 0 S

M A C

5 9

1959 – Heard about Mac
from a neighbor who had
lived in the Twin Cities.



1942 – Born in Sterling,
Illinois (between Rockford
and the Quad Cities)

4 2

Interviews

from the Macalester College Archives

Veterans home from the war, formal dinners, strict curfews, clandestine cats—so many memories of Macalester, some held in common, others unique to the times. For a glimpse into Macalester's past, we are excerpting here some of the oral histories collected by the library.

Sadly, some of those quoted are no longer with us; happily, they leave their memories.

Arthur Bell '40, Trustee

I had to get on a streetcar and make two transfers to get here, and it was particularly difficult because I got into the band and they gave me a sousaphone.... it was quite an experience.

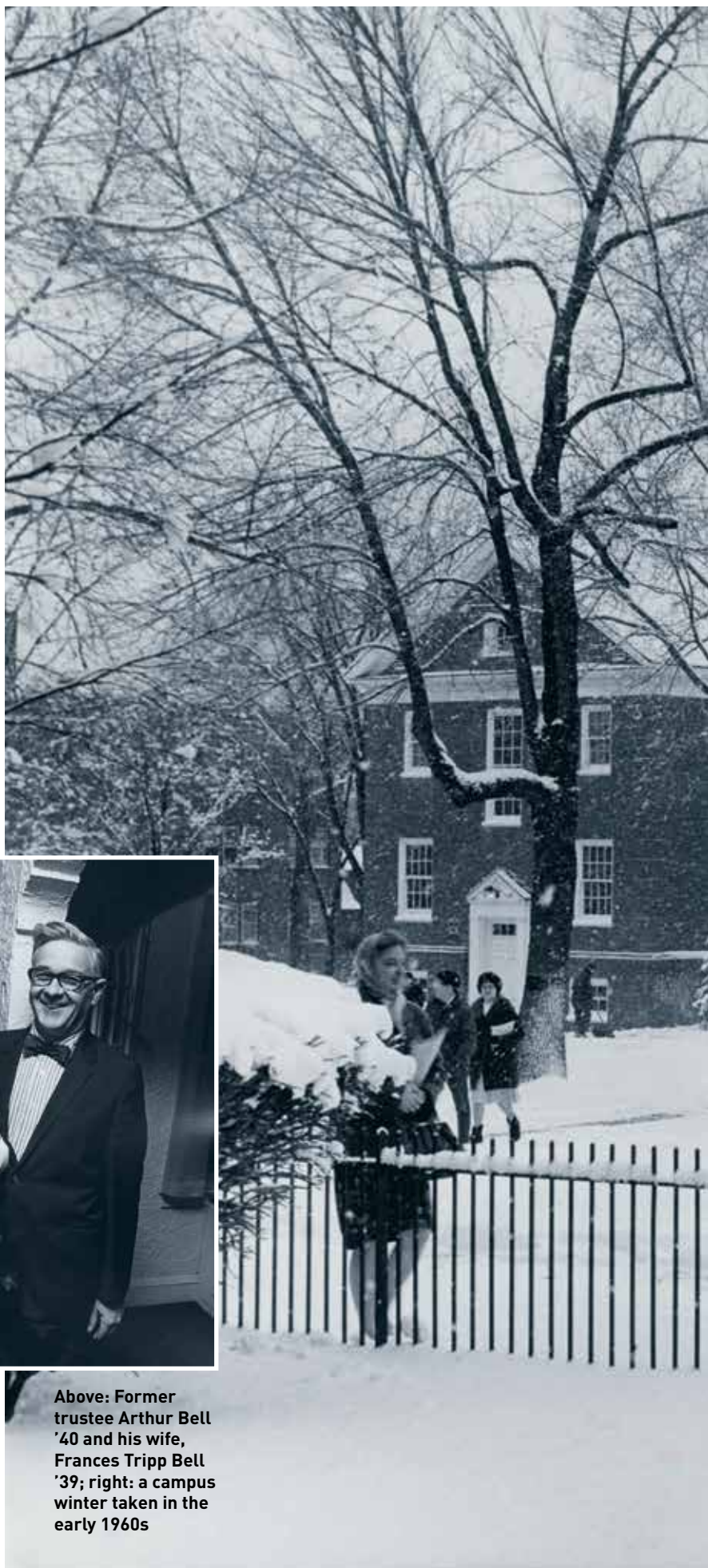
[I started working] at 25 cents an hour, but then in 1936 the WPA offered 35 cents an hour and that was very helpful. I got a job that fall at a skating rink. There used to be a public skating rink here for students and for the community. The season ticket was three dollars.

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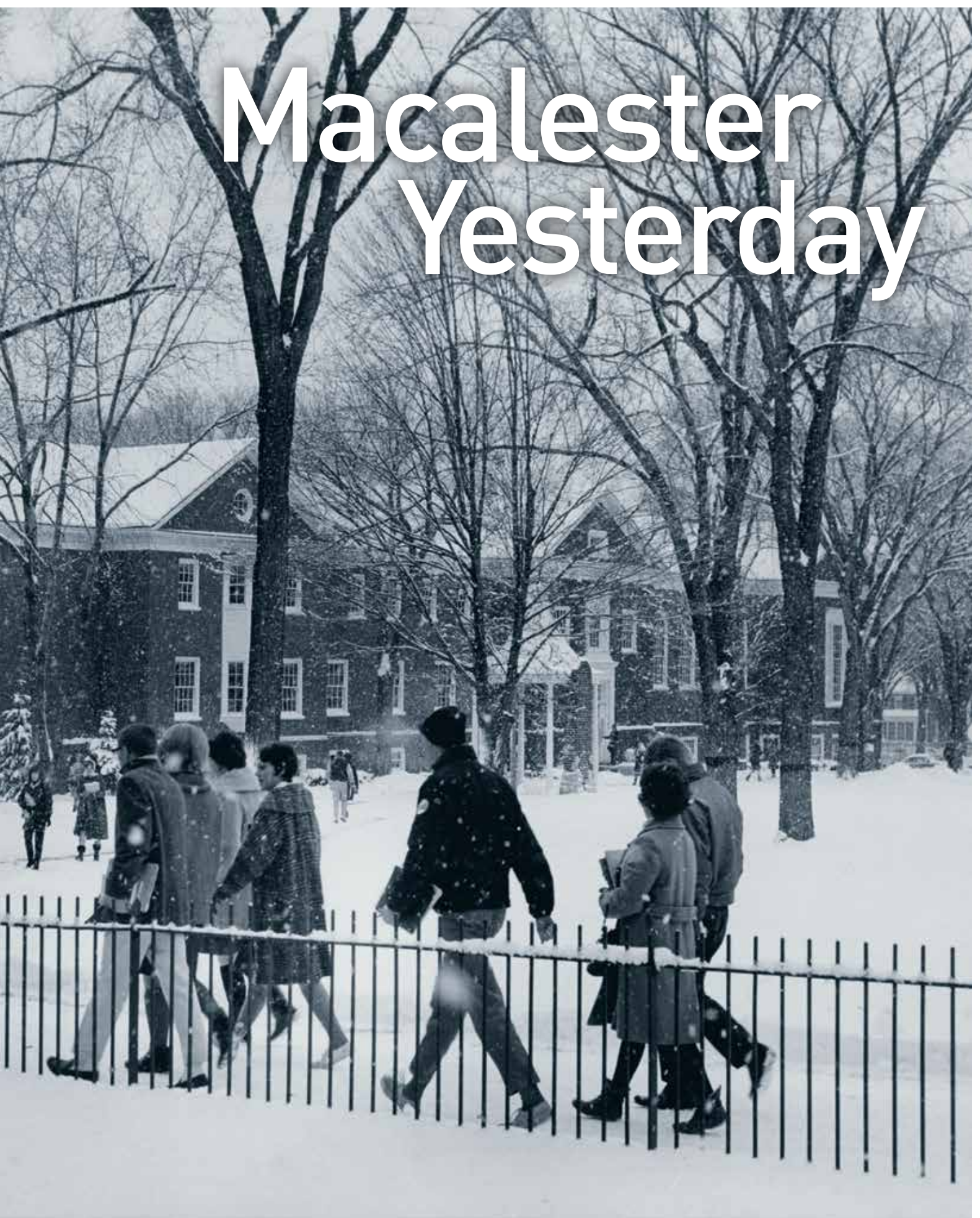
Mac McRae used to be the outdoor man in charge of buildings and so on. In the wintertime, he had a snowplow on the front of the truck and he asked me if I would do that and he gave me 75 cents an hour, cash. So, I'd wake up every morning in the winter-time—5:30—and if it snowed, I was on the streetcar [to campus]. I'd get the truck out and do the plowing. We had a lot of snow one year and I had a [class with a] professor named Milt McLean... and the class I had was at eight o'clock in the morning. Well, I might [still] be out plowing the skating rink, so at the end of the semester he called me in his office and said, "Well, Art," he says, "I don't want to give you an incomplete and I don't want you to fail, but you missed too many classes and you didn't quite get it, but I have something you can do." He gave me two books, he said, "I want you to read those and write a book report." And it took me quite a while, but I did and turned it in. Later he said, "Well, Art, you got a B, and so therefore you finished up the class."



Above: Former trustee Arthur Bell '40 and his wife, Frances Tripp Bell '39; right: a campus winter taken in the early 1960s



Macalester Yesterday





Macalester women's outings made *Life* magazine in 1941. In the photo above, Mac students Floreine Kelly and Norma Penschuck and faculty member Ruth Schellberg are shown with their outfitter, noted environmentalist and author Sigurd Olson.



Richard Dierenfield '48

PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION, 1951–1988

I remember I was in room 625, on December 7, 1941, and my roommate and I heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and we looked at each other. We thought, “There goes our lives.” We were just devastated. You know, with young guys—I was 18 or 19 and I thought, “Oh,



Far left: Richard Dierenfield '48

10 years out of our lives, at least, if we live through it.” And we were not sure at all if we were going to live through it.

We knew we'd have to go in, there was no question at all. But we did live through, and I look over at Old Main, and there is a plaque over there telling about the young men of my age who were killed during World War II. I know all those fellows. And a lot of times I wonder, why me? Here I am—a lot of those good fellows, they were dear fellows, did not make it. But there was no doubt about the need to join.

.....

The library, at one time, was in the basement of Old Main. It was not very much of a library. But then the Weyerhaeusers, bless their hearts, gave us enough money to build Weyerhaeuser Library, which is now Weyerhaeuser administrative building. That was a great, great day when that building was built [in 1942]. The big problem was how to get the books from the basement of Old Main to the place where they should be in the new library. Well, the answer to that question was get about 500, 600 kids, line them up, and they would pass the books along, person at the end, the librarian, would tell them where to go. And in a matter of—oh, I'd say a day, a day and a half, we got the whole thing [32,000 books] moved.

.....

[Later, during his teaching years.]

I remember one time Dr. Turck told us, in January, “Don't cash your checks. Because

there is no money in the bank! We have to wait until tuition comes in from the January group.” So here we sat with hardly any money anyway, you know, we were so poorly paid, and we sat it out for a month. [Then] the tuition was paid and the checks didn't bounce.

Jean Probst '49

INSTRUCTOR OF MATHEMATICS, 1950–1993

In Wallace Hall we ate in the big dining room, which is no longer. We [were] served family-style dinner, so you sat at a table with a faculty member or a dorm mother and passed all the dishes. We said grace before meals. And on Wednesday evenings and Sunday noons we dressed for dinner. We had high heels and stockings and dresses. Much more formal, but genteel in a way. The first fall we brought our sugar rationing cards.



Jean Probst '49

.....

We had a curfew in the dormitory. As freshmen we could go out one night until [midnight] and one night a month until one o'clock. So there were mad dashes back to the dormitory to make the time because [if you were] late, you had to have an excuse and you wrote that excuse to the Resident Council. And then they would decide the punishment, which was usually taking away one of the late night privileges.

Of course everyone stood out on the front stoop with their date and then at five minutes before curfew, Mrs. Tift would flash the light and we'd know that it was time to say goodbye. And then we signed in.

.....

I was in Aquatic League all four years. It was all women; we did synchronized swimming. We had little battery lights on our bodies so that underwater the lights would flow and sparkle.

Professor Miss Schellberg was in the phy ed department, and she took women on canoe trips up in the wilderness—the Boundary Waters—which was sort of daring. In order to be eligible you had to take lifesaving and water safety, and [go on] at least three trips on the St. Croix to learn how to paddle and camp.... One summer we had a photographer from the *Chicago Tribune* fly in to take pictures of us. He was not a camper, and it was pretty funny.



The Aquatic League in a 1950s yearbook photo

Roger Mosvick '52

PROFESSOR OF SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION, 1956–2004

Vets were a large part of the campus. For many of us who hadn't been in the service at that time, we were in awe of these people. They had been all over the world; they had defeated Nazi Germany and Japan.

Some of them had engaged in very heroic personal sacrifices, which you never knew at the time. But they brought a sort of seriousness of purpose and a balance to the campus that a regular student like myself would not know about. Some of the very best intellectual bull sessions at Kirk Hall were led by people who were three or four years older than us, and had been in Vienna and Berlin, and served in Japan, slogged their way through the Philippines and had been in the Battle of the Bulge, and so on.

.....

[Later, when I coached debate, Jack Mason told me] "We've got a guy here that's an outstanding speaker and, you know, you've got to listen to him." And so, Kofi [Annan] was very reserved, very respectful of anyone. But then he opened his mouth, it was very clear that he was a gem. And I said, "Well, you can enter the local contest."

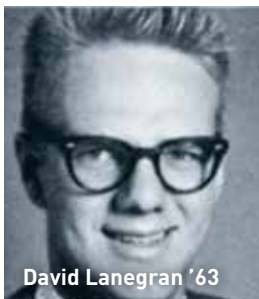


Kofi Annan '61 while he was a student at Macalester

I'd been working with about eight other people and I didn't think he had a snowball's chance. But I said, "I'm going to have to listen to your speech." And he ...showed up in that Little Theater there at four o'clock one afternoon and delivered this wonderful speech. I mean, there was very little I could do to help him—talking about the debt the colonial nations owed to the African nations, and the need to continue helping and repaying that debt, not just a few years, but for 50 years in the future and it was a very prescient speech.

David Lanegran '63

JOHN S. HOLL PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY, 1969–



David Lanegran '63

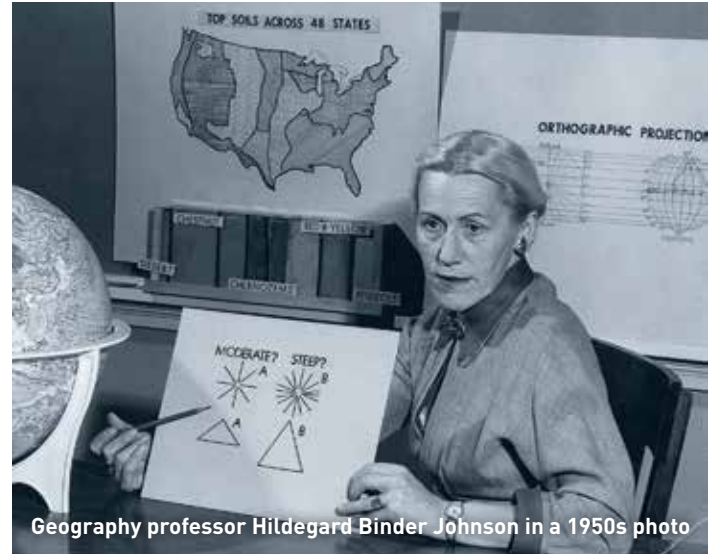
Students decided to go on strike to protest [the 1970 invasion of Cambodia during the Vietnam War]. So they decided they were going to change everybody's mind. They stopped the traffic on Grand Avenue, which caused a huge uproar. Police arrived, and you know they didn't change anybody's mind. And then they went out into the neighborhood, knocking on doors to change people's minds,

and that didn't change anybody's mind. So then they went and talked to the alumni and that was even worse. The result was huge cutting back of contributions. So, the classes stopped and the faculty took a vote in the faculty meeting: the faculty would go on strike as well, but we'd still get paid. After that I didn't go to faculty meetings for about 15 years.

.....

[About Hildegard Binder Johnson, geography faculty member from 1947 to 1975, who brought Lanegran back to teach in the Geography Department]

One of the guys who had taught here before said, "You'll never last. No one can live with Hildegard for more than three years. She's



Geography professor Hildegard Binder Johnson in a 1950s photo

just too hard to live with." I grew up with four older sisters—Hildegard wasn't difficult to live with. She was a genius and she was kind of set in her ways, but she was easy to get along with. I used to think she was about eight feet tall. And then I realized lately when I looked at pictures of her she was really small. But she was a towering genius. She wrote and spoke several European languages. She traveled a lot. She had this huge list of publications. And her peers were people at other institutions in Germany and in France, and around the United States. She knew everybody.

She was very, very creative. She was writing things back in the '50s that were picked up later as brand new. But ... she always talked about how difficult it was to be a woman in this profession. There weren't very many. There were ... maybe eight or ten women faculty. Hildegard was constantly aware of how difficult it was to be a woman. She was nominated for the presidency of the Association of American Geographers, a very prestigious thing.... And that so upset some of the old boys that they put a candidate up from the floor of the convention—which had never ever been done—and that candidate won. So she got slapped in the face for being a woman and being an immigrant.

Juanita Garcíagoday '74

PROFESSOR OF HISPANIC STUDIES, 1983–2007

[In Kirk Hall] we didn't like that the men's bathroom was the one next to our rooms, and the women's was downstairs, so we just took the signs down and declared anybody can use whatever bathroom is closer to them. We were really very much a product of the '60s, so I remember shocking some of the older students. The dean was a bit



Vets were a big part of campus during the post WWII years




Spanish House residents in 1975

alarmed, and ordered us to put the signs back on the bathroom doors and to observe them. We put the signs back on, but didn't change our habits.

My first year was in Kirk, and my other three years I was the native speaker and resident advisor of the Spanish House. I was not raised

by my father to honor rules except his, and in the Spanish House I had a cat, which was against the rules, and the dean of housing would ... send me a memo and say, "Garciaogodoy? Have you gotten rid of that cat yet?" "No, sir, but I'm going to." "Get rid of it!" "Yes, sir, I will." And that was that until he called me again. "Have you gotten rid of that cat?" I said, "No, sir, I haven't gotten rid of the cat." He said, "Get rid of that cat!" "Yes sir, I will!" And I graduated with a cat.

the budget." (I think it was \$20,000, it may have been a little more, sent for the college, of course.) Well, we balanced the budget every year of my presidency here. Now that was not balanced without some privation, without some sacrifice, but we balanced it. And that was convincing to Mr. Wallace. 

John B. Davis

PRESIDENT, 1975-1984

[On his first meeting with benefactor DeWitt Wallace]

It was perfectly clear to me when I came here that I had to meet Mr. Wallace.... He scheduled us to meet at the Sky Club, on the 20th floor of one of the great buildings. I got there early. I assure you, I was going to be there on time.

All of a sudden the doorway is filled with the frame of a very big man. He introduced himself and ...he said to me, "Would you like a drink?"

I said, "Well, Mr. Wallace, it's a work day. But if you will have a drink, I would be happy to join you." And he said, "Martini?" and I said, "Yes." And they served two martinis.

I think it's proper to state that Mr. Wallace was politically and socially a conservative person. So he asked me about whether things were under control [on the campus]. He [knew] what was going on in the campus because he had an education advisor who visited several institutions [he supported].

The key question that came from that first meeting with Mr. Wallace was, "DO YOU KNOW WHAT A BOTTOM LINE IS?" I was able to say, "Yes, I understand what a bottom line is. And I understand that it has to be in the black. And we will work toward that goal."

At a subsequent meeting, he said to me, "I'll send you \$20,000 every time you balance

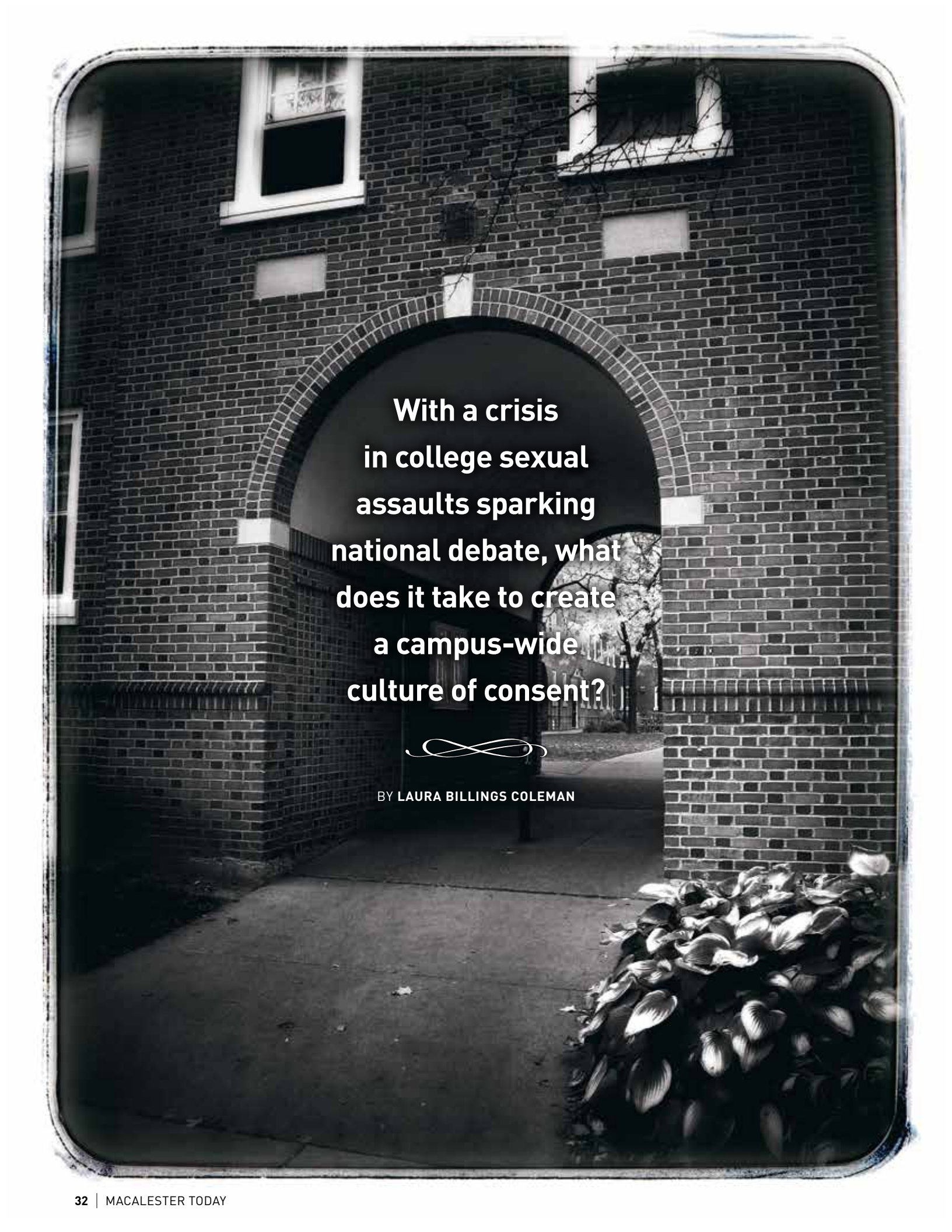


John B. Davis



DeWitt Wallace and his wife, Lila Wallace, in 1963

These are excerpts from interviews conducted by Laura Zeccardi '07 (except as noted) as part of the Macalester College Oral History Project. Arthur Bell '40 and Fran Bell '39, June 28, 2007; Richard Dierenfield '48, July 10, 2007; Jean Probst '49, June 28, 2007; Roger Mosvick '52, July 30, 2007; David Lanegran '63 (interviewed by Sara Nelson '07) Jan. 11, 2007; Juanita Garciaogodoy '74, Aug. 14, 2007; and John B. Davis, June 20, 2007.



**With a crisis
in college sexual
assaults sparking
national debate, what
does it take to create
a campus-wide
culture of consent?**



BY LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN

Consent is Mac

The set has all of the trappings of a serious make-out scene: two college students, a couch, and the suggestion of a keg in the background, props familiar to most college graduates, whether you came of age watching *Happy Days* or *Jersey Shore*.

But as the action begins, the woman expresses discomfort as the man's advances grow more aggressive—the dynamic shifting from mutual consent to possible coercion. That's when two students observing from the sidelines chime in like a Greek chorus, explaining all of the things that are wrong with this picture. "What's up with him?" the female onlooker demands, pointing to the woman's obvious distress. "Does that seem like enthusiastic consent?"

"Mr. Suave here thinks he can change her mind because he's just that good," says her male counterpart.

"But she's clearly not consenting clearly and actively..." she says, watching with approval as the young woman on the couch suggests her date step into the shower, so she can slip out the door to safety.

There are no celebrities in this clip, or even a funny cat, but this video could well be one of the most watched on college campuses this year. Part of "Not Anymore," an interactive online training effort taking aim at the high incidence of sexual assault on college campuses, the program has just become part of the curriculum at Princeton University, the University of Iowa, and a host of other institutions. All of them are trying to keep pace with Title IX standards that compel colleges to investigate and resolve student reports of sexual assault, whether or not these incidents are reported to the police.

While these provisions have been in place for years, a rising tide of student activists have complained that many colleges aren't taking reports of rape seriously enough—in fact, one study found that fewer than a third of sexual assault cases result in expulsion. Findings like these prompted the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights to issue a "Dear Colleague" letter in 2011 to clarify the obligations colleges have when it comes to creating a safe environment for all students. Currently, 86 colleges and universities are under federal investigation for concerns about how they've handled reports of sexual assault.

The list includes Ivy Leagues such as Harvard and Dartmouth, small liberal arts colleges including Swarthmore and Sarah Lawrence, and large public universities from the University of Michigan to University of California–Berkeley. Also on the list are 12 schools undergoing a more sweeping "compliance review," including the University of Virginia, where a recent controversial—and later questioned—*Rolling Stone* report about an alleged fraternity gang rape has inspired nationwide soul-searching about why cheating among college students is often investigated more aggressively than is sexual violence.

That's one reason why **Caroline Vellenga-Buban '17** (Monmouth, Ill.) says she has no complaints about being required to watch the "Not Anymore" training program before arriving on campus as a freshman last year. Macalester has made the program mandatory for every new student since 2007, part of a campus-wide effort to make students aware of the school's zero tolerance policy toward sexual assault. The program also promotes the concept of affirmative consent—replacing "no means no" as the slogan of choice with the "yes means yes" definition gaining hold across college campuses. (In September, California became the first state in the nation to adopt the language as the new definition for sexual consent—a move applauded by many victims' rights advocates.)

"It's easy to think that because you're on a small campus and you recognize most of the people you see everyday, that sexual assault isn't a problem," says Vellenga-Buban, a student coordinator of Feminists in Action/Students Together Against Rape and Sexual Assault. In fact, a study from the White House Council on Women and Girls reports that one in five women are the victims of sexual assault during their time on campus—regardless of the size of the school—and only 12 percent will report the attack. "It makes me feel reassured that Macalester's being so proactive about this and reminding people of the risks. It makes me feel safer to know we're all being educated about it."

A Proactive Approach

A generation ago, many campus sexual violence prevention programs offered little more than tips for keeping track of your drink, or how to call a campus escort when leaving the library late at night. “I would say 25 years ago it was more about promoting personal safety, maybe calling in a martial arts instructor,” says Lisa Broek, associate director of health services. That model was based largely on the myth that the risks students face come from outside the campus community; more recent studies have found that nearly 90 percent of college sexual assault victims know their assailant.

While college women are still more likely to be victims of sexual assault, 15 percent of men are also victims of forced sex during their time in college. More than a quarter of college men, and more than 40 percent of college women report experiencing violent and abusive behaviors—including assault, stalking, and cyber-bullying—from someone they dated.

“The stranger myth is reassuring in a way, because it means you just have to avoid that guy,” says Keith Edwards, director of Campus Life. “It’s harder to think I have to be thoughtful about the person I’m interested in, or my lab partner, or the friend who offers to walk me back to my residence hall at night.” That’s why, over the last decade, Macalester has created a multi-tiered approach to sexual violence prevention designed to convey everything from what consent really means in an intimate relationship, to what a healthy relationship should look like, to what bystanders can do to stop sexual violence before it happens.

For transfer and first-year students, the training starts with the “Not Anymore” module that every student views before they can register for classes, and continues with “This Matters @ Mac,” a freshman orientation session that covers the college’s academic and community values. The concept of affirmative consent is addressed early on, with orientation leaders taking turns demonstrating sexy ways to ask for consent from an enthusiastic partner. The message, often repeated, is that sexual consent calls for an active and ongoing yes—affirmation that’s not possible if your partner is incapacitated by alcohol or drugs. (Alcohol plays a role in 75 percent of campus assaults.)

“We really overplay it and it can be kind of silly, but the idea is to help remove some of the stigma and taboo of talking about sex,” says **Maya Agata ’16** (La Crosse, Wis.), an orientation leader and a volunteer with SEXY (Students Educating X’s and Y’s), a peer-run program of the Health and Wellness Center. “It tells everyone that this is a conversation we’re going to have at Macalester. It’s not something we’re going to mention once and never talk about again.”

The potent mixture of alcohol, new faces, and unfamiliar surroundings combine to make the first 15 weeks of freshman year a particularly high-risk time for students, studies have found, which is one reason SEXY volunteers fan out to dormitory floors every fall with a program about sexual health and safety. SEXY educator **Hannah Lair ’16** (Chicago) often breaks the ice by asking audience members to share their perceptions of what’s normal in the world of college sex. “I’ll ask, ‘What do you think is an average number of sexual partners?’” she says. “One...two... three?” As the numbers go up, hands start to rise—the same trend Macalester’s health and wellness center sees when they ask students to share their perceptions of marijuana and alcohol consumption on campus.

“The big myth is that college is some bacchanalian orgy, but that’s not reality at all,” says Edwards. In spite of a sexually super-charged music and media culture, the boundaries haven’t been pushed back nearly as much as some students may think. “People who are not having sex or having sex in a monogamous relationship are sometimes thinking ‘I must be weird,’ when in fact, they’re normal,” he says.

Another program that gives students a better roadmap for navigating relationships is “Consent is Mac,” a student-led campaign that encourages classmates to sign a pledge (see facing page) committing to their rights and responsibilities in intimate encounters. Among the tenets: I have the right to trust my own instincts and experiences; I have the responsibility to check my actions and decisions to make sure they are good for me and others; I have the right to change my mind whenever I want. Launched nearly a decade ago, Consent is Mac is a consistently popular program—not just because of the free T-shirt that comes with each promise.

“I think consent has become part of our culture at large,” says **Alejandra Marin ’15** (Santa Ana, Calif.), who coordinates the program. Consent is Mac sponsors a popular sex trivia event every year, and posts to a tumblr blog that keeps the concept of consent at the top of students’ minds. “Just making consent part of the conversation is so important. We’ve definitely had people thank us for doing this, especially transfer students. It’s something that defines Macalester and who we are.”

Complications of Consent

As the conversation about campus sexual violence builds momentum, so too have reported cases nationwide. A 2014 study from the *Washington Post* found there were more than 3,900 reports of sexual offenses on college campuses in 2012, a 50 percent surge over the past three years.

“One of the challenges is that the better we are at educating students about this, the more sexual assault numbers we’re going to see,” says Edwards, who lectures widely on the subject of sexual violence prevention, and who recently served as chair of the College Student Educators International’s Commission for Social Justice Educators. “In my talks, I tell people I’m not scared of the campus where they have a high number of sexual assault reports over the last few years—but I’m petrified of the school that has none. It doesn’t mean it’s not happening—it means no one is getting the resources they need.”

Associate Dean of Students Lisa Landreman, who coordinates all of Macalester’s sexual assault prevention efforts, says her office handles about a dozen initial inquiries from students every year, about half of which proceed through an official reporting process with possible sanctions for accused students. Although Title IX complaints can include everything from criminal reports of rape to hostile classroom environments, Landreman says, “Most often it’s people who either are casually dating or haven’t chosen to date but make an agreement to have some sort of initial intimacy, and often what they’re describing is consistent until one person says, ‘Wait, I didn’t agree to this part.’”

An online reporting form and a small campus Sexual Assault Support Team are designed to provide student victims and potential perpetrators fair process and privacy. In many cases, Landreman says, the victim doesn’t want to see the accused student expelled, but also doesn’t want to see the person every day—a virtual impossibility on a campus as small as Macalester. “The challenge is that we’re a residential community and everybody knows each other,” Landreman says. “On the positive side is that people pretty universally care about this issue, they care about people being harmed in this community, and they want to prevent it.”

Direct, Delegate, Distract

Mac’s tight-knit community can be a source of strength when it comes to preventing sexual assault, one reason the college has put a growing emphasis on the value of bystander intervention. Studies suggest that

one in three sexual assaults begin in the presence of a bystander who could take action to prevent the problem—skills Hannah Lair learned more about at a Green Dot Training program the college provided for student leaders.

“We talk a lot about the three D’s—direct, delegate, and distract,” says Lair, who prefers the direct approach when it comes to keeping friends safe. “If someone’s dancing on you at a party, I’m not afraid to say, ‘Are you okay with this? Is everything good?’” Delegating a potential problem to an authority figure is another strategy; causing a distraction by spilling a drink or demanding a private conversation can work just as well. “You can tell someone that their car is being stolen, or because we’re at Macalester, that their bike is being stolen,” she says. “The idea is that if you’re concerned, you need to do something. Even if you cause an awkward situation, your intentions were good.”

Lair joined a recent Continuing Conversations discussion titled “Your Defining Moment,” in which students strategized ways to help friends caught in unhealthy relationships or potentially dangerous situations, one of many conversations Mac students have been having about the topic. Every Monday, a small but growing group called Mr. M—short for Macalester Reimagines Masculinity—explores how to shift away from the “toxic masculinity” that fuels violence and sexual assault.

“I define toxic masculinity as that ‘boys will be boys’ attitude that boys are taught from a young age,” says **Jake Greenberg ’17** (Boston), who says that Mr. M discussions often explore the ways sexism contributes to creating a culture of rape. “I think one of the most harmful attitudes is ‘I don’t commit sexual violence, therefore I don’t need to care,’” he says. Sexism and the potential of becoming a victim of sexual assault “is not something that hurts women every once in awhile, it affects them in different ways every day—there’s never a day when women don’t have to think about it.”

Conversations like this are a hopeful sign that campuses can turn the tide on sexual violence, says Edwards, and become safe havens for all students. “Rape may be a reality, and we need to be mindful of that, but a proactive approach asks, how are we going to stop that from happening? How are we going to learn about whom the perpetrators are? How can we educate them, how can we reach them? How are we going to change the culture?”

“Those of us who’ve been doing sexual assault prevention work have long said, ‘Can you just imagine what we could do if we got the attention this issue deserves?’” he says. “Now this topic has everyone’s attention, and I think it could be transformative.” ■

LAURA BILLINGS COLEMAN is a regular contributor to *Macalester Today*.

CONSENT IS MAC PLEDGE

I have the right to...

- trust my own instincts and experiences.
- leave any situation without explaining myself.
- say “NO” at any point in the interaction, if I do not want physical closeness.
- feel safe.
- mutually consensual, pleasurable physical experiences.
- tell someone when I feel I have been mistreated.
- change my mind whenever I want.
- tell my partner what I want physically and emotionally.
- be heard and respected.

I have the responsibility to...

- accept “NO” for an answer.
- communicate in advance or in the moment, what I want or do not want.
- check my actions and decisions to make sure they are good for me and others.
- educate myself about sex and intimacy.
- know when I am too tired, drunk, or otherwise incapable of making a responsible decision.
- ask when I am unclear about the other person’s needs and wants.
- ensure all parties actively want each step of the interaction to occur.
- communicate when I am uncomfortable.
- ensure my partner is comfortable.
- deal with the repercussions of a sexual encounter no matter my relationship with the other person.
- interfere when I think someone else is being mistreated, coerced or is unable to fend for themselves.

Campus Assault Statistics

• One-third of sexual assaults begin to happen in the presence of a bystander who could take action to intervene.

• Alcohol is present in two-thirds of sexual assaults overall and in 75 percent of sex assaults on campus.

• 28 percent of college men and 43 percent of college women report experiencing violent and abusive behaviors (including physical, sexual, technological, verbal, or controlling abuse) from someone with whom they were in a dating relationship.

In Memoriam

1940

Laura Lundberg Sundeen, 96, died Oct. 7, 2014, in Virginia, Minn. She is survived by a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

1941

Marjorie Warner Taylor, 95, died July 26, 2014. She is survived by a daughter, three grandsons, and a sister.

1942

Suzanne Sherk Daum, 92, of Monticello, Wis., died July 23, 2014. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and sister **Alix Sherk Elam '49**.

1943

Lois Galle Whiting, 89, of Davis, Calif., died April 2, 2011.

1945

Pauline Borchers Havenor, 91, of White Bear Lake, Minn., died Sept. 15, 2014. She was on the staff of the Minnesota State Legislature from 1953 to 1959 and helped run Havenor Funeral Home. Mrs. Havenor is survived by a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.

1946

Henry Nupson, 90, of New Ulm, Minn., died July 1, 2014. He served in the Navy in Pearl Harbor as a commissary ensign and was cofounder of Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories. Mr. Nupson is survived by three daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Jean Bergquist Oliver, 90, of St. Paul died Sept. 19, 2014. She worked for West Publishing for 40 years. Mrs. Oliver is survived by a daughter, three grandchildren,

three great-granddaughters, and a sister.

1947

William G. Davis, 87, of Honolulu died Nov. 21, 2013. He was a retired urologist. Dr. Davis is survived by his wife, Caroline, four daughters, a *hanai* son, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and sister **Judy Davis Oehler '52**.

Maxine Amundrud Tenney, 89, died Oct. 19, 2014, in Blaine, Minn. She worked as a medical technologist in Yuma, Ariz., and taught high school biology in Stillwater, Minn. Mrs. Tenney is survived by four children, 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

1948

Carol Wallin Homer, 87, of Anaheim, Calif., died in January

2014. She is survived by her husband, Bill.

Paul G. Nygren, 89, of Edina, Minn., died Oct. 9, 2014. He was an Army veteran and a manager with North Central Airlines. He served as a business administrator for several Minneapolis churches, including Westminster Presbyterian Church at the time he retired. Mr. Nygren also served as president of the National Association of Church Administrators. He is survived by his wife, Elaine, a daughter, a son, a grandson, and a sister.

Mary Bartlett Olson, 88, of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., died Nov. 10, 2014. She taught grade school for many years. Mrs. Olson is survived by daughter **Karen Olson '71**, two sons, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

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Questions? Contact Gabrielle Lawrence '73, director of Alumni Relations, at lawrence@macalester.edu.

In Memoriam

1949

Isabel MacDougall Board, 86, of Cottage Grove, Minn., died Aug. 7, 2014. She is survived by four children, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two sisters, and brother **John MacDougall '52**.

Sylvia Swenson Nelson, 88, of Arlington, Va., died April 24, 2014. She is survived by a daughter, two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Marilyn Kast Rusch, 87, of Spearfish, S.D., died Nov. 13, 2014. She farmed with her husband, Clifford, for 43 years. Mrs. Rusch is survived by her husband, a daughter, a son, seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and brother **Richard Kast '48**.

1950

Walter A. Gilbraith, 88, of Sebastopol, Calif., died Dec. 3, 2013.

Daniel T. Hansen, 86, died recently. He served in the Navy during World War II and in the Army during the Korean War. He was a teacher, counselor, and coach with the St. Paul Public Schools. Mr. Hansen is survived by a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

Edward P. Lowe, 88, of Holdingford, Minn., died Sept. 28, 2014. He served in the Navy as a radar instructor from 1944 to 1946 and worked as a teacher and principal at Holdingford High School. He retired in 1980. Mr. Lowe is survived by his wife, Dorothy, three daughters, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1951

Wayne E. Albro, 88, died Sept. 6, 2014. He served in the Army during World War II. During his career as an engineer, Mr. Albro worked on dams in western Washington state during the 1950s; served for seven years as a civil engineer with USAid in Korea, Nepal, and Bolivia; and designed bridges for Washington state's highway system until his retirement in 1989. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, two sons, and two grandchildren.

Gordon L. Backer, 85, of Wausau, Wis., died Oct. 2, 2014. After serving as a Navy flight surgeon, practicing as a family physician in Little Falls, Minn., and completing an ophthalmology residency at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Backer and his brother formed the Backer Eye Clinic in 1965. In 1995, he retired from the practice, now known as the Eye Clinic of Wisconsin. Dr. Backer is survived by his wife, Arlene.

Kathryn Chalmers Longley, 85, of Little Falls, Minn., died Nov. 1, 2014. She is survived by her husband, John, three daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Eha Seaquist, 85, of Richfield, Minn., and Cornucopia, Wis., died June 28, 2014. She was a chemical dependency counselor with Hennepin County. Mrs. Seaquist is survived by her husband, Carleton, three daughters, and two sons, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Charles F. Tiffany, 84, died Oct. 12, 2014, in Tucson, Ariz. He served for eight years in the Air Force and worked with Boeing for 28 years. After retiring from Boeing in 1988 as executive vice president, Mr. Tiffany worked as a private consultant on aircraft and aerospace vehicle structures. Among the numerous awards he received were the Von Karman Memorial Award and the AIAA Structures, Material, and Dynamics Award. Mr. Tiffany is survived by his wife, Delores, a daughter, two sons, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1952

Mary Schroeder Barrett, 82, of St. Paul and Lino Lakes, Minn., died Sept. 28, 2013. She is survived by three daughters, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Donald L. Hadfield, 84, of Lakeville, Minn., died Aug. 25, 2014. He served as a clergyman at churches in Massachusetts and Minnesota and as an education specialist with the Minnesota Department of Education's Equal Education Section, implementing civil rights law in public schools until his retirement in 1992. Mr. Hadfield also taught at Metropolitan State University

and the University of Minnesota. He is survived by his wife, Martine, two daughters, two sons (including **John Hadfield '77**), 23 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Jean Efthimiou Pangborn, 84, of Winter Park, Fla., died Oct. 17, 2014. She was the first Minnesota woman to become a store manager for Goodyear Tire Co. She earned a pilot's license in 1974, worked for Jefferson Motor Coach Tours, and launched All Points Travel School and Agency in 1986. Mrs. Pangborn is survived by three daughters and a grandson.

1953

Joel I. Meade, 84, of Williams, Minn., died Sept. 20, 2014. He served in the Army from 1953 to 1954 and worked as a store manager with JCPenney in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois, retiring in 1990. Mr. Meade is survived by his wife, Carol, three daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Wilbur C. Nemitz, 83, died Sept. 11, 2014. After serving in the Army from 1953 to 1955, he joined the faculty of Rasmussen Business School as an instructor. In 1961, Mr. Nemitz and his brother took over ownership of the institution from their father, and under their leadership the school expanded to additional locations in Minnesota and began granting degrees. Mr. Nemitz was also a founding partner of the Minnesota Legal Assistant Institute. He is survived by his wife, Jane, a daughter, a son, and a sister.

1954

Jerome V. Lofgren, 80, of Poulsbo, Wash., died Jan. 16, 2014.

S. Joy Pachkofsky, 80, of Hopkins, Minn., died Oct. 21, 2013.

Clifford P. Wilhelmson, 86, died Nov. 9, 2014. He was a Navy veteran. Mr. Wilhelmson is survived by his wife, Marilyn, two sons, three grandchildren, and two brothers.

1955

Kathleen Donahue Shade, 81, of Fort Collins, Colo., died Nov. 13, 2014. She taught vocal

music at a junior high school in Denver, worked at a school for disabled children in Missouri, and taught after-school piano lessons for 40 years. Mrs. Shade is survived by her husband, Philip, two daughters, three sons, 14 grandchildren, and a brother.

Eugene H. Tennis, 80, of Gainesville, Ga., died Oct. 15, 2014. During his career as a Presbyterian minister, he served churches in Hector and Rochester, N.Y., worked on the Presbyterian Church's denominational capital campaign, and was associate executive director of the Rochester Area Council of Churches and executive director of financial development for the National Council of Churches in New York City. Mr. Tennis also worked with the consulting firm of Marts & Lundy, before retiring as vice president in 2000. Mr. Tennis is survived by his wife, Gay, two sons, and four grandchildren.

1958

Alfred L. Clemmons, 80, died Aug. 29, 2014. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War, taught history, served as a junior high school principal, and was chief of public school finance for the State of New Mexico. He also spent 29 years as a financial advisor to New Mexico school districts. Mr. Clemmons is survived by his wife, Judith, two daughters, a son, a grandson, and a sister.

Thomas D. Nagel, 77, of Litchfield, Minn., died Sept. 7, 2014. He practiced law with the Litchfield firm of Olson and Nelson and served as county attorney for Meeker County from 1971 to 1978. Mr. Nagel is survived by his wife, Wilma, two daughters, four grandchildren, sister **Victoria Nagel Anderson '66**, and brother **Terry Nagel '65**.

Russell E. Olson, 83, of New Hope, Minn., died Sept. 6, 2014. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War and taught at Hosterman Junior High School for 32 years. Mr. Olson is survived by his wife, Clarice, a daughter, a son, and a granddaughter.

Thomas W. Pritchard, 82, of Northfield, Minn., died Oct. 30, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Janet, four sons, 10

grandchildren, and sister **Allene Pritchard Burns '55**.

1959

Sandra Seidel Burt, 75, of Apple Valley, Minn., died May 6, 2013. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

Lowell C. Shuman, 75, of Osage, Iowa, died Nov. 14, 2012.

1960

Dona Meigs Morgan, 77, of Cannon Falls, Minn., died Sept. 12, 2014. She practiced nursing in the Twin Cities for several years and taught nursing at Normandale Community College for 25 years. Mrs. Morgan is survived by her husband, Thomas Morgan '61, two daughters, five grandchildren, and brother **Gerald Meigs '57**.

Joyce Holen Olson, 83, of Minnetonka, Minn., died Aug. 16, 2014. She was a schoolteacher for many years in Hopkins, Minn., and was named Volunteer of the Year by the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Mrs. Olson is survived by her husband, Gene, three daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a brother.

1961

Elizabeth B. Moe, 74, died Aug. 30, 2014, in Westlake, Ohio. She is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, and a sister.

1962

John N. Bennett, 81, of St. Paul died Dec. 10, 2013. He worked for more than 20 years as a public school teacher.

James E. Clawson, 74, of Kennebunkport, Maine, and Eagan, Minn., died Sept. 26, 2014. He was an account executive in incentive travel sales. Mr. Clawson is survived by his wife, Linda, three children, three granddaughters, a sister, and a brother.

1965

Charles W. Andersen, 70, of Minnetonka, Minn., died Oct. 7, 2014. He worked for 40 years in labor relations, leadership training, and organizational development.

Mr. Andersen is survived by his wife, **Mary Cockrell Andersen '66**, daughter **Susan Andersen '03**, two grandsons, and sisters **Beverly Andersen Beauzethier '59** and **Carolyn Andersen Pollock '62**.

1967

Joan Gilbertson Behm, 69, of Little Canada, Minn., died July 24, 2014. She is survived by a daughter, a son, grandchildren, and sister **Nancy Gilbertson Gubrud '62**.

1969

Linda Earl Fuller, 64, died Sept. 30, 2011. She is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren, and four siblings.

Janet Ross Reynolds of Sunnyvale, Calif., died in July 2014. She is survived by her husband, **James Reynolds '67**, and two daughters.

1970

Marie Pelkola Nelson, 65, died March 24, 2013. She worked as an instructor with Outward Bound, owned and operated a resort near Atikokan, Ontario, was a park ranger in Quetico Provincial Park, and taught in the Thunder Bay, Ontario, school system for many years. Mrs. Nelson is survived by her husband, Jon, a daughter, a son, two grandchildren, and a brother.

1972

Richard J. Zaiss, 62, died July 30, 2013. He worked at South Area ENCOR. Mr. Zaiss is survived by his wife, Tracy, a son, his mother, and a brother.

1974

Jacquelyne M. Hanson, 62, died Nov. 16, 2014. She worked at Kowalski's Grand Market. Mrs. Hanson is survived by her husband, Russ Sehon, a son, and a brother.

Rex W. Horner, 62, of Waukesha, Wis., died March 31, 2014.

Waldon O. Petersen, 94, of South St. Paul, Minn., died Aug. 22, 2012.

1984

Charles P. Vaughn, 53, died Aug. 24, 2014. He is survived by his partner, Roger Sima, his mother, and two brothers.

1990

Felicity Miel Crosby, 53, of Stacy, Minn., died Sept. 15, 2014. She taught at Clara Barton Open School in Minneapolis for 21 years. Mrs. Crosby is survived by her husband, Scott, her parents, **Jill Trescott Miel '58** and **Ernest Miel '58**, a sister, and a brother.

2017

Justin D. Willard, 19, of Lakeville, Minn., died Oct. 22, 2014. He is survived by his parents, his grandparents, and two brothers, including **Jared Willard '15**.

Other Losses



Stephen H. Paulus '71, 65, of St. Paul died Oct. 19, 2014. During his 35-year career as an internationally renowned classical composer, Mr. Paulus wrote more than 500 pieces of music, including 13 operas and hundreds of choral works. Among his most popular compositions were an operatic adaptation of the James M. Cain novel *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and "Pilgrim's Hymn," a shorter piece performed at the funerals of Presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford. *The New York Times* described his work as "reliably accessible and often lyrical." Mr. Paulus cofounded the Minnesota Composers Forum in 1973 and served on the board of directors of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers from 1990 to February 2014. He is survived by his wife, Patty, two sons, his mother, **Patricia Clark Paulus '47**, and a brother.

Eddie P. Hill, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Macalester, died Sept. 10, 2014, at the age of 84. A plant biologist and microbiologist, Mr. Hill joined Macalester's faculty in 1969. He chaired the college's Biology Department, helped launch the Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area in Inver Grove Heights, and established the Eddie P. Hill Summer Biology Research Endowed Fund, which awards stipends to students conducting research with Macalester biology professors. Mr. Hill is survived by his wife, Aleta, daughters **Jeanne Hill Dill '82** and **Susan Hill '83**, a granddaughter, and two brothers.



Layover in Philly

BY CHRISTIAN SMITH '15

In the summer of 2013, math major Christian Smith '15 (Menomonie, Wis.), a first-generation college student, was chosen for a prestigious summer research fellowship at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. He wrote this piece about that experience.

I've never been on an airplane before. Waiting in MSP for my first-ever flight, I text my mom, "Waiting at my gate. Can you explain to me again what happens now?" The excitement and the nerves are overwhelming. Much to my surprise, I make it to Philly for my layover.

This layover in Philly is what separates a student me from a scholar me. I treat myself to an expensive airport sandwich and a peach smoothie. This layover in Philly is what separates a poor me from a privileged me.

Week 1. Ithaca is so beautiful it takes my breath away. The town is built around gorges and waterfalls, and Cornell is placed atop a steep hill. This layover in Philly is what separates a flat plains me from stark gorges me.

Week 2. Maybe Teach for America isn't such a bad idea. I can be a corps member for two years and attend grad school after that. Being a scholar can wait, right? This layover in Philly is what separates a me feeling excited about academia from a me feeling guilty about it. It is a privilege to be doing research at all. I can't justify being only a scholar for 10 years. I must reach out to the students whose parents blister their hands and damage their joints while I eat my expensive airport sandwich. The academy feels less appealing every day, and I am trying to figure out why.

Week 3. "What do your parents do?" I'm not ashamed to say what my parents do, nor am I angry when a peer says that their parents work in academia. But I am devastated as I gradually learn that nearly all my peers here have parents working in academia. This layover in

Philly is what separates a me excited about academia from a me jaded about it. Why am I the only one fazed by the overrepresentation of white and academic lineage in this Cornell program? How representative is this of the academy at large? This layover in Philly is what separates a class-blind me from a class-conscious me. My spontaneous weekend in New York City with my fellow researchers is fun, but I don't know what a concierge is. "What is a concierge, and why are we staying in a \$300 hotel in the first place?" "Because YOLO," he says, "YOLO." "I've stayed in Motel 6's bigger than this, though." "But Motel 6's are trashy," he says. That's also how he described the less expensive bus to New York City. When I asked why, he said the people looked trashy. I don't really know what that means but I think it means they look poor, black, or both.

Week 4. "I'm not angry that my parents have borrowed \$1,200 from me in the past two weeks," I text my best friend at Mac. "I'm just angry that people think upward social mobility is easy." Despite her more privileged socioeconomic background, she understands.

Week 5. Many of us are applying to present at an undergraduate research conference. One white male asks if it is bad to not list his race and sex. "You have a moral obligation to do so," I declare, expecting Macalester snaps. "No way," another white male says. "A black applicant's ancestors may have been slaves," he says, "but she wasn't." This layover in Philly is what separates a naïve me from an injured me. I don't think their attitudes are unique to people within mathematics, but I do suspect that their positions as white male upper-class children of terminally degreed parents give them little perspective on systemic oppression. I wish they were more like my best friend at Mac.

Week 6. My passport arrives in the mail. I am the first person in my family to get one. A fellow researcher innocently expresses her amazement that I didn't already possess a passport. Unfortunately, this is comical to me. I only have a few weeks left, after all, and I've found that humor can suppress feelings of isolation very well. ■

LEAVE IT TO MAC



For Donna Sederburg Ogle '64 and Arthur "Bud" Ogle '64, studying at Macalester shaped their vocations in literacy, education, and social justice work. In their neighborhood, they transformed 25 buildings into thriving communities with low-cost housing.

In honor of their 50th Reunion, they made a blended gift, including a charitable gift annuity, an Annual Fund gift, and an amount designated in their will.

Their generosity to Macalester helps ensure that future generations of Macalester students experience the same distinct education they received.

**"The world opened up
to us at Macalester."**

—Donna Sederburg Ogle '64 with Arthur "Bud" Ogle '64

For more information on making a planned gift, contact Theresa Gienapp at **651-696-6087** or visit **macalester.edu/leaveittomac**

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